

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

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Blair to hold ballot on manifesto

Party members asked for approval in attempt to curb dissidents

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

Mr Blair disclosed yesterday that all 365,000 members would be consulted next autumn in a referendum on a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government. The manifesto will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

The paper will not include detailed tax proposals — to be unveiled just before a general election — but any spending pledges will be costed alongside plans to switch resources from existing programmes.

Mr Blair is determined to go into the campaign with a clear party mandate for the controversial policies he has introduced in his efforts to modernise the party. He hopes that mass support for the plans will bind the party together and protect him from damaging recriminations should he win power.

Previous Labour governments, including the Callaghan administration after the winter of discontent in 1979, were brought down because they could not satisfy the demands of the unions and activists and Mr Blair is determined to prevent a repeat.

The referendum is one of the biggest consultation exercises ever mounted, mirroring last year's Clause Four ballot when Mr Blair won resounding backing for his plans to change the party's constitution.

Each member will be able to vote for or against the document, but there will be no provision to amend

its programme for government voted upon by its party members. "This will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government. It will nail forever any doubt that we are anything other than new Labour."

He was speaking at the launch of a document, *The Road to the Manifesto*, outlining the four main pillars on which policy will be built: economic opportunity in a world of increasing insecurity; a one-nation society with a reformed welfare state; political change with de-

veloped power and a modern constitution and leadership in Europe.

Over the past year Mr Blair has presided over a number of policy changes, including plans to withdraw benefit from workshy youngsters, a retreat from plans for a mandatory training levy and a softening of the party's opposition to grant-maintained schools and GP fundholding.

Many of these are to be detailed in separate policy papers, which will be culled in June to form the basis of the early manifesto draft that will go to the party conference

in October and the national ballot a few weeks later.

Leadership sources are confident that Mr Blair will get backing for the programme, but they are worried that there could be a low turnout in the referendum. They believe that at least 70 per cent of members need to take part, with a high vote in favour, for Mr Blair to be able to claim a mandate.

While a defeat is unlikely, some MPs expressed concern that the ballot will be on the combined policies, rather than individual proposals, which could prompt members to reject the package.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Peter Riddell and Diary, page 20

Support for Tories firm in spite of BSE row

By PETER RIDDELL

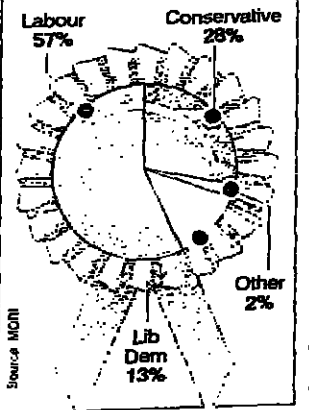
SUPPORT for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken between last Friday and this Monday, shows that the Tories are now on 28 per cent, two points higher than a month ago when the party was hit by the arguments over the Scott report. This is the same level as at the New Year. Fears over beef have not yet had an adverse impact on their ratings.

Support for Labour has been unchanged over the past month at 57 per cent, the highest level since July. Mr Blair's personal rating is also the highest since then. The public is satisfied with his performance by a two-to-one margin. Liberal Democrat support has slipped one point to 13 per cent, though Paddy Ashdown's personal rating remains positive.

MORI interviewed 1,910 adults face-to-face at 143 ward sampling points across Britain between March 22 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (9 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

Q How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?



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Handbags away: New uniforms being modelled yesterday by sailors Penny Taylor and Neil Morris and below, the old-style bell-bottoms

Naval flare-up saves bell-bottoms

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Navy bell-bottom trousers have been saved by an outcry in the Senior Service that was so great female sailors will now wear them as well.

But the new rule means that for the first time, they will not be allowed to carry handbags.

After a review of all naval uniforms, female ratings — no longer officially called Wrens — will wear the same traditional flared trousers and square rig tops as their male counterparts.

The review for bell-bottoms was ordered despite a decision by the naval review team to swap flares for straight trouser legs because it thought the wider bottoms smacked of 70s styles. However, sailors used as guinea pigs for the new uniforms said straight trousers looked too ordinary and deplored their flares back.

Female ratings who currently wear a double-breasted jacket and either trousers or skirts, depending on whether they are aboard ship or ashore, will now wear the square rig outfit. It will be tailored to "fit the female form" according to Commander David Hobbs, who led the review. "And there will be no more handbags," he said.

Among other changes, officers are to be formally entitled to wear a kilt in the wardroom. The Scottish ancestry of Admiral Sir Jack Slater, the First Sea Lord, may have played a part in winning recognition for the kilt. The Navy Board said the practice of wearing the kilt was "harmless, colourful and supported by several very senior officers".

Trials are also to be launched to replace the gold lace in officers' sleeves and on their caps with a synthetic material. One item which was scrapped more than 20 years ago has been revived: a black silk scarf worn by naval gunners to absorb the sweat of battle is to be included in the new outfits. The silk scarves date back to 1540, but in a 1970 clothing review they were replaced by a pullover which had a silk facing in the collar. Bell-bottoms were first worn in 1857 and survived despite fashion changes until the 1970s, when slightly more modest flares were introduced.

The bell-bottoms were 20 inches wide, covering the boot and swinging in the wind as sailors came down the gangplank.

The new flared trouser will be 18-20 inches wide, which compares with the average civilian trouser of between 16 inches and 18 inches.

The old bell-bottoms were designed principally to enable the sailor to roll them up in the days when seamen scrubbed the decks in their bare feet. They were also easier to remove if a man fell overboard.

The concernina pleats also made it easy for seamen to fold their bell-bottoms neatly and stow them away.

The concernina pleats also made it easy for seamen to fold their bell-bottoms neatly and stow them away.

Similar reports were circulating in France, where native meat is now tagged with red, white and blue flags declaring that it has been reared on vegetable feed. Merchants still reported a 30 per cent drop in sales and wholesalers said that orders had fallen by 60 per cent in spite of the unilateral boycott of British beef imposed by many countries last week and the formal export ban confirmed by the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Continued on page 2, col 4

'New-style' CJD case reported in France as beef ban is confirmed

By BEN MACINTYRE, RICHARD OWEN
PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATLEY

A FRENCH victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease, it was reported yesterday.

The deaths of five Italians from CJD were also disclosed for the first time yesterday and doctors said they believed that two others had been killed by the brain disorder.

France has about 50 cases of CJD each year, but the young victim in Lyons was the first to have shown the same new symptoms as the British cases. *Le Monde* reported. The patient, who has not been identified, was one of two people aged under 40 diagnosed with the disease this year, and tests were being

carried out to see if the circumstances of the death were identical to those linked with "mad cow" disease in Britain.

French government officials have hitherto maintained that no case of CJD in France could be linked to the new strain of the disease, but the scientists carrying out tests in the Lyons case refused to comment until the post-mortem examination was complete. French health officials insisted, however, that neither of the young patients was believed to have contracted CJD through eating beef.

At least two of the Italian victims were older, but the cases came to light only because of the public alarm that has seen the meat market collapse. Supermarkets and



butchers said that beef sales were down by 30 per cent and still falling, and the head of the Italian Butchers' Federation accused the media of "information terrorism".

Captives freed as hijackers give in

Hijackers who forced an Egyptian aircraft to fly from Luxor to Libya surrendered last night and released their 150 captives.

The EgyptAir Airbus A320 was seized en route to Cairo. Egyptian sources said the hijackers claimed to be carrying a message from God for Egypt's President Mubarak and President Clinton.

Fine and ban for former minister

Sir Nicholas Scott, the former minister for the disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a young child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay £450 costs. The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied falling to stop after the accident. Page 3

Shepherd backs sixth-form exam reforms

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

GILLIAN SHEPARD yesterday signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered a tightening of A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

Accepting a raft of recommendations from a year-long review by Sir Ron Dearing, the Education and Employment Secretary, said: "The new national framework for qualifications will offer clarity and coherence to employers and parents. The current system is confusing and complex."

Mr Blunkett said the Government should have ensured vocational qualifications met the same standards as A levels before changing their names. He added: "We have argued that advanced GNVQs needed to improve before earning the title applied A level. The Government should insist on the same degree of rigour."

Mrs Shepherd told MPs that Britain's international competitiveness and future prosperity demanded a higher level of qualifications. The package of measures derived from Sir Ron's 200 recommendations would ensure rigour.

Labour said last night many of Sir Ron's proposals echoed its own plans for qualifications.

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With the right cause, a revolting backbencher is no laughing stock

To anyone who has served as a Government backbencher (as for seven years I did) — those plankton of the parliamentary food-chain — the Labour leader's proposals for an internal referendum (to make his party's election manifesto binding on Labour MPs) are of real significance.

Along with many fellow-candidates, I never read Conservative Party manifestos in full. They were long and turgid documents whose general drift we knew. On the whole we supported them but

we reserved the right to disagree with individual elements within.

If these were important issues we would have felt some obligation to tell our constituency chairman, but certainly not to inform Conservative Central Office or the party leadership.

Smaller disagreements were rarely raised until they came to a Commons vote. I would forewarn the whips of my anxieties. For example, I refused to support the Assisted Places scheme. The whips called me an idiot but nobody

suggested that I had broken any obligation to our manifesto. Whips, however, would suggest to potential rebels that the electorate had sent us to Westminster as Conservatives and we should think very hard before acting in any other way. Among constituents you were damned if you did and damned if you didn't. Some would praise you for your independence. Others would tell you that they had not voted Conservative to have you vote against Tory measures in the Commons. Both had a point. Any Gov-



ernment backbencher has felt the pull of each argument within his own head and heart. The truth (and I know it) was that all but a handful of the twenty-odd thousand who voted for me would have voted for a monkey, so long as it sported a blue rosette. It was the Tory programme (for what they took it to be) for which they had voted. Only a minor-

ity knew or cared much about me.

But still I persuaded myself, as all backbenchers do, that I owed my constituents some kind of duty to use my own judgment. I also persuaded myself that I owed the parliamentary party the same duty; and that I might dissent from a plank in the party's raft of policies without ceasing to be

a Conservative or losing my moral right to stand as one.

How did I reconcile that with the undoubted fact that my mandate from West Derbyshire was the Thatcher mandate, not the Parris one? In part it was a matter of self-respect. The backbencher needs to feel his presence matters. He needs to feel, too, that he also represents the many who did not vote for him. There is an element of irrationality here, but it remains emotionally important to backbenchers.

More rational was the argu-

ment that it was important to my party that its leadership must earn our support, and could never sleep certain in the knowledge that it would keep it.

To belong to a party among whose MPs there were lively and continuing disagreements about important matters was a source of pride to me and (I supposed) healthy for the party.

The knowledge that I must justify myself to my constituents my own Commons votes kept me arguing my corner within the party, rather than shrugging "manifesto commitment".

When whips urged "the manifesto" on me I acknowledged the great force of this argument, and it nearly always prevailed. But I never thought it always must and nor really did they, whatever they pretended. This was one tiny lever I had in an otherwise unequal struggle. Between telling me loyalty counted and telling me I had no right in any circumstances to rebel, there seemed, and still seems, a small but important difference.

Shepherd to broaden autonomy for schools

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

WIDE-RANGING proposals to give all schools more power to run their own affairs and to select more pupils on grounds of ability, leading eventually to the establishment of more grammar schools, will be promised today by the Education Secretary.

In a move that ministers believe will kill lingering suspicions of a rift between herself and the Prime Minister, Gillian Shepherd will announce that a White Paper setting out firm proposals for the extension of self-government in schools is to be published in June.

The White Paper will also cover the controversial area of selection. Mrs Shepherd is expected to suggest that all schools should consider whether their admission policies best match the needs of their area. The paper will fuel suggestions that the Government is trying to reduce the number of comprehensives.

Outlining plans that could take the Government nearer to its objective of a big increase in the number of opt-out schools, Mrs Shepherd will make plain in a speech that she wants to extend self-government in all schools, those run by local authorities as well as those that are grant-maintained.

She wants all schools to have as much power as possible over their budgets, possibly raising from 85 per cent to 100 per cent the proportion of budgets "delegated" to them.

Existing grant-maintained schools will be given more freedom in the way they operate and develop, adding to the attraction of GM status. In particular the Government will examine ways of freeing them further from the purs-strings of local authorities, for

example in areas such as transport.

At the same time she will pledge that all schools that want to select more of their pupils should be able to do so. Ministers are already increasing from 10 to 15 per cent the proportion of pupils a school can select without seeking government approval; the White Paper is likely to raise the prospect of this being increased to 20 per cent.

In remarks that will be seen as backing an increase in the number of grammar schools, Mrs Shepherd will speak of wanting to encourage all schools to build on their strengths and establish distinctive identities.

Her announcement will be followed up by John Major in his speech to the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate on Saturday. He is expected to underline to the Tory faithful that there are no differences between himself and his Education Secretary over the desire for more self-government and selection in schools.

There have been persistent suggestions that Mr Major wants to move faster than the Education Department on opting out and selection.

While making plain that she is opposed to a return of the universal 11-plus, which she believes would undo many of the gains made in bringing diversity and choice to the state sector, Mrs Shepherd's speech is intended to lay such suggestions to rest.

Some Tory MPs are known to be irritated that the Prime Minister's Downing Street policy unit has been floating radical policy ideas whose disclosure has undermined Mrs Shepherd's attempts to move at a more sensible pace.



Mrs Shepherd with Sir Ron yesterday after he had presented his plans to inject more quality into education

Sixth-form study shake-up ordered

Continued from page 1

and quality at a crucial stage of education. The Government's action plan demands proposals by the end of the year to safeguard A-level standards and reduce inconsistencies between different subjects and examining boards. Research commissioned by Sir Ron found that some subjects, including English and business studies, attracted significantly higher grades than mathematics or the sciences.

George Turnbull, for the Southern Examining Group, denied A-level standards had slipped, and said it would not be easy to ensure exact parity between different subjects. "It is not easy to compare Einstein and Shakespeare".

However, Mrs Shepherd said she expects to see some improvements by September 1997, with the full implementation of a programme agreed

with the boards a year later. She has also asked the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to produce measures to increase the take-up of science and mathematics courses beyond the age of 16.

New one-year AS levels will allow teenagers to study a broad range of four, five or six subjects when they enter the sixth form. They will be encouraged to make one of these an AS level course on "key skills" such as communication and team working, demanded by employers.

The Confederation of British Industry said it would have liked Sir Ron to go further and made key skills part of every A level. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals agreed some students would benefit from the chance to take university course units while still at school. Diana Warwick, its

chief executive, said: "Sir Ron has found a way which we believe will protect standards, at the same time as increasing the scope for broader pre-university education."

University lecturers were sceptical about school pupils taking their courses. David Triesman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "The idea that some sixth formers could acquire sufficient undergraduate credits to complete a degree in two years is totally unrealistic. Even if it were possible, it is by no means obvious that it would be desirable."

Head teachers said Sir Ron's review would make sense of the current "jungle" of qualifications. The National Association of Head Teachers particularly welcomed the re-naming of advanced GNVQs as applied A

levels and the creation of a single National Certificate.

However, the association had "serious reservations" about the proposed national diploma at advanced level, which it said was too demanding to be left as a voluntary option.

The Royal Society was among organisations which lobbied for a greater emphasis on core skills to broaden young people's achievements and was pleased they featured prominently in the review. Sir John Horlock, the society's vice-president, also hailed the drive to improve mathematics and science education.

"Urging all schools to spend a full 20 per cent of curriculum time at 14 to 16 on science is a position we support entirely."

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Leading article, page 21

FO loses works of art round the world

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

THE Foreign Office has lost more than 200 works of art from the Government collection. The disclosure comes after an official report earlier this month that criticised the Ministry of Defence for losing 205 works, one fifth of its collection.

The Heritage Department has confirmed that 206 works of art are missing from 356 FO buildings around the world and another 14 from FO premises in Britain. Six of the works were lost during the emergency evacuations of British embassies in Belgrade and Baghdad. It was not clear last night how the other 214 items had gone missing.

The Department of the Environment has lost 49 works, Trade and Industry 22 and the Department of Health 18. Customs and Excise has also lost 18 pictures from the government collection. Six items are missing from the Cabinet Office.

Richard Mottram, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, came under fire from both Conservative and Labour MPs on the Public Accounts Committee over a report from the National Audit Office which disclosed that the ministry had been unable to locate large numbers of works in its £5 million collection.

Mr Mottram described the difficulties of keeping track of works of art. "When officers or officials move into a room and they haven't liked the pictures, they pass them on to others. Or they move from job to job and take the pictures with them. Once that happens three or four times it is impossible to know where they are."

New regulations mean that service personnel, civil servants and even ministers will in future be asked to sign personally for whatever is hanging on walls of their offices when they take possession.

NEWS IN BRIEFS

Gulf War syndrome inquiry

Medical experts investigating Gulf War syndrome for the Ministry of Defence are to study claims that hundreds of veterans of the 1991 war may have suffered neurological damage after being given a mixture of anti-nerve gas vaccines and tablets.

A new programme of MoD research will follow the work of Dr Goran Jamal, who reported yesterday in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* that 14 Gulf War veterans suffering from a range of illnesses showed evidence of nervous system dysfunction compared with a similar group of healthy civilians.

Journalist backed

The right of journalists to protect sources was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights. The court found that the Government had breached the European Convention on Human Rights in the case of Bill Goodwin, a trainee on *The Engineer* who was fined £5,000 for refusing to name a contact.

Leading article, page 21

Rail service sold

The London to Edinburgh InterCity train service, made famous by the Flying Scotsman, has been sold to Sea Containers. The company, which operates the Orient Express and Cross-Channel services, has been confirmed the successful bidder in the auction to run the £250-million-a-year franchise for InterCity East Coast.

Ulster protest

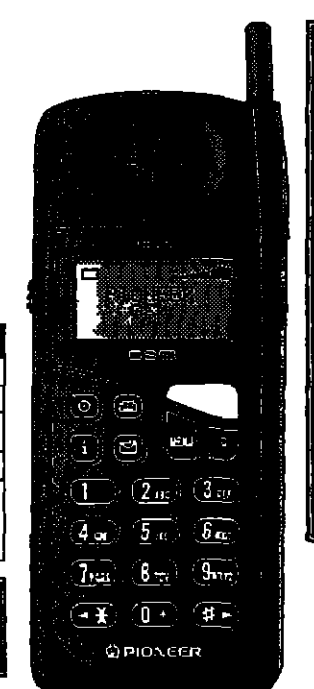
Conservatives in Northern Ireland have written in protest to John Major after being told they would not be allowed to contest the elections to all-party talks in the Province. They have accused the Government of disenfranchising the 45,000 people in Northern Ireland who voted Tory at the general election.

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French CJD case

Continued from page 1

European Commission yesterday.

That led to urgent talks between London and Brussels on an EU support package for measures that are expected to include the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of older dairy cattle — which could cost £3 billion in compensation over the five years it could take to get "mad cow" disease out of the system.

Ministers agreed yesterday that the main priority was to rebuild public confidence in beef, but Downing Street nevertheless criticised the export ban as disproportionate and confirmed that John Major was likely to raise the issue with fellow heads of government at the Turin summit tomorrow.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, suggested that Britain might take the Commission to the European Court of Justice, but he admitted that that could take months and was not an immediate solution to the problem. He said the Government was working as speedily as it could to put together a package of measures for which EU help would be available.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, meanwhile finally abandoned the Government's position that it was prepared to adhere to scientific advice that culling was unnecessary. "Yesterday the argument moved. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef," he said. "The question now is a matter of consumer confidence. It is one thing to have a safe product, it is another to command confidence in the market place."

Mr Hogg and Mr Dorrell had earlier both faced heavy criticism from Tory MPs during a four-hour joint session of the Commons health and agriculture select committees.

Edward Leigh accused them of contradicting each other over a cull, while David Congdon and William Powell called for more specific information about the risk of contracting CJD from BSE-infected offal. They complained that scientists' assurance that the risk was "extremely low" was unhelpful.

Mr Leigh said that Mr Dorrell had hinted heavily that partial cull could be expected, but Mr Hogg had denied suggestions of a selective slaughter.

"Because these questions are not being answered today, what this committee will be faced with is an inability to do its job properly," Mr Leigh said. "There will be a statement made to Parliament about some kind of partial slaughter policy, but then up will jump [BSE experts] who will say 'this is far too little, too late.'"

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William Rees-Mogg, page 20
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CORRECTIONS

Contrary to our report (March 21) Mr Duncan Walker, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon, Leeds, did not himself allege bribery against a colleague. Acting on advice from the General Medical Council, he merely passed on what he had been told on the telephone about a colleague to the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority solicitor.

The millennium lecture by the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks (report, March 21) was delivered at the Manchester Business School.

Cadbury's chocolate fingers (report, yesterday) do not contain any beef products.

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Chelsea MP admits drink-driving

Sir Nicholas Scott banned from road for leaving crash

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIR Nicholas Scott, the former Minister for the Disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £450.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the three-car shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas, 62, drank up to three glasses of white wine when he made a speech at a party in his west London constituency before the accident.

Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied failing to stop after the accident in Sydney Street, Chelsea.

Roger Davies, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, central London, found that the MP had failed to remain at the scene after driving his red Volvo into another parked Volvo which hit the buggy and trapped it against a Jaguar.

In the pushchair was Thibault Perreard, aged three years and eleven months, the son of a Swiss banker.

Yves Perreard, 37, who was with his wife, told the court that he shouted "stop, stop" and waved his arms at the car that caused the accident. After rescuing his son he was unable to find the driver. His son was crying. In attempting to free the boy from the trapped buggy he twisted his ankle.

Sir Nicholas said that he walked 400 yards to the local constituency association headquarters to telephone emergency services, leaving Patricia Sill-Johnstone, his secretary, to take care of

matters. He did not leave his name with anybody because he assumed everyone knew who he was.

The magistrate interrupted the MP's evidence to query why he had walked 400 yards to make his call when he could have stopped at a public telephone or at restaurants on the way.

Sir Nicholas failed to telephone from his headquarters because the building was closed. Without stopping at the scene of the accident, he then walked to the home of his doctor.

There he drank a glass of whisky offered to him while a call was made to police telling officers where he could be interviewed.

A blood test revealed 98 milligrams of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood, the limit being 80 milligrams.

Dean Ramsey, a local resident who was taking a walk, said that when he knocked on the window of Sir Nicholas's

car he could get no response. "The defendant looked like somebody who had had too much to drink. He looked like he was about to go to sleep. His eyes were closing."

Michele Palmiera, a mechanic from east London who was driving past, told the court that a woman at the scene was verbally abusing people.

She allegedly called Mr Perreard "French scum" and asked the crowd that had gathered to disperse at once.

Sir Nicholas told the court that after returning from constituency headquarters he was on his way back to the scene of the accident but realised there was commotion and turmoil. A woman was shouting: "Lock him up, lock him up." He did not wish to inflame the crowd by returning.

"I thought it was better for me not to hang around, not least because of this woman's behaviour which was increasingly erratic," he said.

The magistrate told Sir Nicholas: "You had no idea at that stage of the damage that might have been caused to the cars or what possible harm might have occurred to the child. There was an obligation for you to remain on the spot for a period of time. That you failed to do."

Sir Nicholas, as Minister for the Disabled, had a public fallout with his daughter Victoria after he admitted he misled MPs when he denied that his department had been involved in tactics designed to kill the Disability Bill in 1994. Victoria, a lobbyist for disabled rights, denounced her father and supported calls for him to resign.



Scott assumed he was known to everyone



Decorated masks donated to the Prince's Trust by the cartoonist Bill Tidy, top, Lord Healey, left, and the comedian Ruby Wax. Hundreds of celebrities were sent plain, white masks to decorate however they chose. A selection is on display at Olympia until tomorrow. The full collection will be auctioned in November

BBC wins deal for Potter's last film

By ALEXANDRA FREAN MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished film script by the late Dennis Potter is to be made into a film by the BBC with backing from Hollywood.

White Clouds is about a young Englishman living in Verona who kidnaps a young girl and demands a ransom but ends up killing her, despite falling in love with her. It is based on the novel *Caro Massimina*, by Tim Parks.

It had been thought that Potter's last unfinished works were *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, two four-part dramas he wrote for the BBC and Channel 4 shortly before his death from cancer in June 1994. However, the BBC confirmed yesterday that it was developing *White Clouds* in partnership with an unnamed American company. It will have a budget of £3.5 million and filming will begin in Italy in the autumn.

Potter's close friend and collaborator, Ken Trodd, who has produced *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, said that Potter completed the script for *White Clouds* before he became ill. "He gave it me to read. Although it is based on someone else's novel, Potter's stamp is very much on it. It is a very clever piece, reminiscent of *Brimstone and Treacle*."

Trodd was speaking at the launch of the BBC's spring and summer schedules, at which it was announced that *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* would be screened by the BBC and Channel 4 in April and May. The season also includes a five-part documentary series, *Defence of the Realm*, about the Ministry of Defence. Prince Edward's television company has won its first BBC commission, it was announced yesterday. Ardent Production's documentary *The Search for the Silver Arrow* is to be shown as a Top Gear special next month.

Pre-teen children fall prey to shape of fashion models

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as 11 worry about the size and shape of their bodies and are alarmed that the changes taking place at puberty run counter to the dictates of fashion, according to a survey.

Half of girls and a third of boys are concerned about their body image, with twice as many girls as boys wanting to lose weight, the survey of 11 and 12-year-olds found. In many cases the desire for slimmer was influenced by the images of fashion models.

The questionnaire survey, published yesterday by the Health Education Authority, was conducted among 530 pupils in three secondary schools. It found that many children undergoing puberty, especially girls, felt they were fat and were alarmed at the unexpected increase in weight.

Girls are particularly concerned about their legs and their stomachs. Many claimed they wanted to be slimmer for themselves, not because they cared about what others thought. One said: "I have photos of me when I was really skinny and dressed up and it really makes me sick to see that I have put on so much weight." The strategies adopted

by girls to achieve the ideal shape range through doing very little to taking exercise and to serious attempts at dieting. Dancing or aerobics classes were cited as the "right way" to achieve slimmer.

Dieting was seen as particularly difficult at school where children were subject to peer pressure to indulge in snacks and chips, but easier at home.

However, some children - 15 per cent of boys and 11 per cent of girls - say they would like to put on weight. One in 15 children of both sexes felt they were too thin.

Parents interviewed for the survey felt that their children's worries about being overweight were unfounded. They tried to reassure them by explaining that weight problems ran in the family or were a natural phase of adolescence.

Two wronged parties make a right for jilted minister

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A BAPTIST minister whose wife set up home with their gardener has decided to re-marry - and has chosen the gardener's former wife. The Rev Dennis Mickelsen said that his bride, Joan Stannard, was, like him, a "wronged party".

Mr Mickelsen, who was last year evicted from his home after he refused to pay a divorce settlement, was devastated when his former wife Audrey, 69, walked out on their 41-year marriage and set up home with Peter Fisk, their gardener, in 1990.

The two couples were once great friends and used to go on drives and outings together. Mr Mickelsen will now marry Mrs Stannard, who was married to Mr Fisk for 42 years and reverted to her maiden name after her divorce, at his church in Sutton, Suffolk, where he has been pastor for 28 years.

Mr Mickelsen, 72, had said he was prepared to go to jail rather than pay a penny towards the £109,500 divorce settlement to his wife, with whom he had four children. He later obeyed a court order to pay his former wife £20,000, half the proceeds of the home, and £625 a month for five years. "I bear no

animosity to any person on this earth including those who have wronged me. But although I sent letters and flowers to my wife after she left, I had no other communication with her apart from two chance meetings at a garage," Mr Mickelsen said. "I waited and prayed for six years for her to come back. Then I felt in my heart that I could be happy with Joan who like me is also a wronged party. We feel a common bond of Christian faith which is the best union that there can be."

Other ministers and people might think differently but I think there is a place for remarriage when the circumstances are genuine."

Mr Mickelsen said his marriage plans had met with "a favourable and happy" response from his congregation. Mrs Stannard said: "I am very happy to be with Dennis. Our lives will be full again. We have been friends for a long time but we only got serious recently."

The couple plan to live in Mrs Stannard's sheltered accommodation flat in Woodbridge. Their former partners have not married but live 12 miles away at Otley, near Ipswich.



Peter Fisk with Mr Mickelsen's former wife, Audrey

Money for wrongful arrest 'ridiculous'

By ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN who was ordered out of her sickbed and wrongly arrested over two unpaid parking fines described an offer of £150 compensation as ridiculous yesterday.

Caroline Coupland had reported her car stolen at the time the penalties were incurred. But she was told by a police officer that if she did not get dressed and accompany him to court she would be handcuffed.

The mistake was blamed on lost documents and Ms Coupland, 31, of Ash, Surrey, was offered the compensation by Hampshire Magistrates' Court Committee as a "gesture of goodwill". She was told that magistrates, who issued an arrest warrant, have immunity in such cases against claims of false arrest.

Ms Coupland, who suffers from asthma, had just been released from hospital when the officer arrived with a warrant from Aldershot magistrates.

She said: "When I was eventually brought before the court I couldn't stand up. I was still holding my nebuliser mask to my face. I nearly passed out."

Lincoln's burghers offer sanctuary to outlawed Robin

By ANDREW PIERCE

LINCOLN has offered a new home to Robin Hood, who faces being outlawed from Nottingham because he is out of date. Civic chiefs in Lincoln are planning to promote its historic links with the enduring hero of British folk history.

Lincoln green, the cloth said to have been worn by Robin and his Merry Men, was woven and dyed in the city. His celebrated robberies of the rich to benefit the poor were conducted, says Lincoln City Council, on the nearby Fosse Way.

More controversially, the city supports the theory advocated by a group of historians that he was not Robin of Loxley, a miller's son, but related to the De Kyme family, which hailed from Lincoln, some 35 miles from Nottingham. Lincoln Cathedral also boasts a medieval manuscript that documents the first connection between Robin and Sherwood Forest.

Geoffrey Ellis, the mayor of Lincoln, said: "We will take full advantage of promoting our connection with the outlaw."

"If Nottingham does not want him, we certainly do. We will support Robin Hood in every way." But Lincoln will not secure Robin Hood's services without a fight. Only days after the plan to design a new symbol for Nottingham came to light, Robin Hood, alias actor Tim Pollard, was the main attraction at the city's stand at the British trade fair in Birmingham.

Margaret Tilson, Nottingham's tourism promotions officer, was aghast at the proposal to play down links with Robin Hood. She said: "We would not dream of dropping him, as he is so well known worldwide." Mark Alexander, executive director of Nottingham's conference bureau, said that no firm decision had been taken about the outlaw. "A marketing partnership is now looking at an image for Nottingham that would appeal across the board."

Mr Pollard, dressed in a Lincoln green tunic, said: "I hear that some people think Robin Hood is a bit of a soft image for the city. For a person to be thrown aside for losing a reputation for being fair, just and honest seems to me to be daft."

Letters, page 21

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LEGOLAND WINDSOR

Lost evidence that could have saved three lives

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MENTAL patient with known homicidal tendencies was allowed back into the community where he killed his father and two pensioners, an inquiry found yesterday.

Jason Mitchell, 26, had persuaded a tribunal that he was sane. Evidence that he was a potential killer had either been lost or ignored.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, a former chairman of the Mental Health Commission, made 50 recommendations yesterday, including possibly depriving prisoners of the right to keep medical records confidential.

Mitchell, whose mother left home when he was a child, was a glue-sniffer who became a petty thief. Papers from 1988 produced by a young offenders' institution and prison showed that he was a serious-

ly disturbed teenager who believed that television sets talked to him. These records failed to follow him through his next five years of courts and hospitals.

In 1990 a vicar allowed Mitchell to sleep in a church in Epsom, Surrey. The next day, Jim Powell, the 70-year-old church cleaner, was attacked with a baseball bat by Mitchell, who threatened to kill him.

Mitchell later told police he was carrying two knives because voices had told him to kill the vicar. He appeared at the Old Bailey and was sent to West Park psychiatric hospital in Epsom.

Jackie Leaver, an occupational therapist at the hospital, provided a report in 1991 detailing Mitchell's innermost thoughts but the document was dealt with dismissively by

clinicians and other staff. The following year, Mitchell applied for discharge. In 1993 he was transferred to St Clements Hospital in Ipswich, nearer his father's home.

In 1994 Dr Ray Goddard, a consultant psychiatrist, sanctioned Mitchell's release to the community, saying there was no useful purpose in detaining him.

In December of that year Mitchell absconded from his halfway house and broke into the home of Shirley Wilson, a chapel organist, and her husband Arthur, a former stationmaster. He killed the couple, both aged 65. Mitchell then went to his father's home 200 yards away in the village of Bramford, Suffolk. He beheaded and dismembered Bob Mitchell. The killer told police he wanted practice before

killing and eating a younger victim. After being arrested for murder, he appeared ecstatic and sang *It's a Wonderful Life* in his cell. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Mitchell was given three life sentences last July and is at Rampton Hospital.

Sir Louis's panel blamed nobody for the triple killings. It recommended that full accounts of criminal acts involving mentally disordered people should become part of their permanent clinical record.

Dr Goddard said yesterday the distress of the case had caused him to question whether he wanted to continue his job. "I think we feel that sometimes we are being scapegoated for a national failure of care in the community," he said.



Jason Mitchell persuaded a tribunal he was sane

Nuclear plant hails report

Child leukaemia 'unlikely' to be Sellafield's fault

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria is very unlikely to have caused a leukaemia cluster among children in nearby Seascale, a government committee has concluded.

But it admits that no other single cause can explain the cluster, the subject of repeated official inquiries. Interactions between various factors, including the possibility that leukaemia could be infectious, may be responsible, the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment says.

For four decades, childhood leukaemia has been more common in Seascale than would be expected. There have been eight cases since 1945 of lymphoid leukaemia among those below the age of 25, when less than one would be the norm.

The report reviews data since a committee under Sir Douglas Black examined the issue in 1984. It shows that the excess of cases has continued and remains confined to a very small area. Cumbria as a whole does not show an excess and nor do other areas around Sellafield, where workers at the plant lived.

The committee, chaired by Professor Bryn Bridges, examined the possibility that the Seascale cluster might be due to people moving into the area, bringing with them infectious agents to which they were immune, and mixing with others who were susceptible.

"The evidence available at present does not convince us that such a large relative risk persisting over more than three decades could be wholly attributed to population mixing," it concludes.

Professor Bridges speculated that if infection was the

cause, then Seascale may have been affected because of a sewage outflow from Sellafield which discharged directly into the River Ehen and flowed out to sea less than a mile from the Seascale beach.

The report says that the high incidence of leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in young people in Seascale between 1963 and 1992 was "highly unlikely to be due to chance" but that "no one factor could account for the increase".

Radiation levels were "far too small" to account for the cases on the basis of present knowledge. Nor is it clear how only the children of Seascale fathers and not those who lived elsewhere could be affected.

Professor Bridges added: "Only time will tell. We need to know a lot more about childhood leukaemia. Only then will we be able to go back and then we will be able to understand the true scale of the Seascale case."

British Nuclear Fuels welcomed the finding that occupational exposure to radiation was very unlikely to account for the excess of leukaemias in Seascale. David Young, BNFL spokesman, said: "We are pleased that at last the spectre that radiation has caused these problems has been lifted from us."

"But we have always felt that to blame these problems on radiation was a bit simplistic."

Janine Allis-Smith, whose son Lee was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1984 at the age of 12, said the report was inconclusive and she was still convinced his illness was caused by radioactive waste from the Sellafield plant.

Dr Muirjen said the effect on other staff could be profound. "There is a very nasty side to inquiries: the amazingly negative impact on staff morale. You could argue 'so what', but it can lead to poorer care. Staff are under incredible scrutiny by local and national press and a tough QC, which means that they are frightened out of their mind." Although Health Department officials are privately worried about the inquiry system, campaigning groups tend to encourage it. Dr Muirjen said: "If your whole organisation is concerned with saying that community care is flawed, this is helpful because it gives you ammunition all the time."

He said inquiries should be held only in cases where serious negligence was suspected, rather than automatically as at present.

Mental health inquiries dismissed as worthless

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

INQUIRIES into mental health blunders such as the Jason Mitchell killings are mostly a waste of time, according to an expert who chairs them. They nearly always reach the same conclusions, nothing is changed, nobody is sacked and they may make matters worse, according to Dr Matt Muirjen. About 40 such inquiries are under way at any time. Dr Muirjen, director of the respected Sainsbury Centre for Mental

Health in London, was able to correctly predict the outcome of yesterday's inquiry by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. "These inquiries invariably come up with very original findings," he said. "We know the conclusions... poor communication between agencies, lack of leadership, lack of resources. They are supposed to reassure the public, which they don't, and they are intended to improve the system, which they don't."

Dr Muirjen has just chaired an

inquiry into the suicides of three men with mental health problems who lived in the community in Southampton. "Inquiry reports, including my one, come up with these findings but they are rarely taken further. You invariably find that some mistakes have been made some years earlier. What tends to happen is that the health authority reads the report, thinks about it, considers whether it can allocate more resources and often can't."

"Hardly ever does anybody get

dismissed or sacked. I remember one case where a senior manager was moved sideways but everybody already knew that person couldn't do the job."

Dr Muirjen said the effect on other staff could be profound. "There is a very nasty side to inquiries: the amazingly negative impact on staff morale. You could argue 'so what', but it can lead to poorer care. Staff are under incredible scrutiny by local and national press and a tough QC, which means that they are

frightened out of their mind." Although Health Department officials are privately worried about the inquiry system, campaigning groups tend to encourage it. Dr Muirjen said: "If your whole organisation is concerned with saying that community care is flawed, this is helpful because it gives you ammunition all the time."

He said inquiries should be held only in cases where serious negligence was suspected, rather than automatically as at present.



Sellafield power station on the Cumbrian coast

£146,000 lottery prize goes unclaimed

By ADRIAN LEE

A SMALL fortune will slip through the fingers of one National Lottery player tonight when the deadline expires on the highest unclaimed prize. Unless the player with a ticket bought in Torquay comes forward by midnight, £146,245, plus interest, will go to the lottery's five-good causes.

Prize-winners have 180 days to make themselves known to the organiser, Camelot. Since the National Lottery was launched 18 months ago, £33.2 million of unclaimed prizes have gone to good causes and £22.2 million is in Camelot's bank account awaiting claims.

Unclaimed prizes amount to 1 to 2 per cent of the £2.1 billion paid to winners. Camelot said: "It is terrible that someone could miss out on such a huge prize. It might not be a million but it is the sort of sum which could transform someone's life."

The ticket was bought for the draw on September 30 last year, when the numbers were 10, 11, 29, 32, 33, 40 and the bonus was 16. There was one jackpot winner, who claimed £9.9 million. The holder of the missing ticket chose five correct numbers plus the bonus.

Other prizes waiting to be claimed include: £104,746 from the Redhill area of Surrey (January 6 draw); £104,892 from Liverpool (December 16) and £78,970 from Newport, Gwent (February 3).

All the jackpot winners have come forward within a month, although one left his ticket in the pocket of his jeans, where it was discovered on wash day. A player holding a ticket worth £342,000 waited five months. "The ticket-holder was aware he or she had won but was very casual about it," Camelot said.

Gardener jailed for assault at council

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who punched three councillors after they turned down his planning application was jailed for six months yesterday. Frederick Ruby went berserk over rejection of his plans to convert a stable for his mother, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.

Duncan Munro-Kerr, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Ruby, 31, a landscaper and gardener from Ashford, started shouting when he heard the decision last July. He rushed towards the three councillors sitting in the front row, who were all in their 60s. He punched Jim Head on the right side of his face, causing him to spin round in his chair.

Harold Apps tried to shield himself but Ruby punched him about five times on the face. Martin Gray got up but Ruby managed to punch him in the right eye. Ruby lifted a chair above his head but was pulled away by his father. As he left he smashed the annual council photograph.

When he was arrested, Ruby had told police: "Basically, I saw red. I lost my temper. I walked over to three councillors and slapped them around the side of the head." He admitted three charges of assault causing actual bodily harm and damaging a photograph frame.

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Clarke thwarts Cabinet debate on referendum

By Nicholas Wood and James Landale

KENNETH CLARKE has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the impasse over a referendum on a single currency. It is understood that the Chancellor has told John Major that he believes that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, should be present if ministers are to decide an issue of such magnitude.

Mr Rifkind is accompanying the Queen on a state visit to Eastern Europe and will not return to Britain until after joining Mr Major in Turin on Friday for the opening of the inter-governmental conference on the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary has produced a paper on the implications of a referendum, such as collective responsibility and timing. Mr Clarke believes that he should be at the Cabinet table to contribute to the debate. It is understood the Foreign Office was prepared to field a junior minister if the Prime Minister had wanted to press ahead today.

Mr Major, who has been fully occupied this week with the beef crisis, is understood to have agreed to defer a decision. He initially wanted to announce a referendum commitment at the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate

on Saturday. The delay means a decision will be postponed until next week or after Easter.

Mr Clarke's insistence on a "serious discussion" in Cabinet is being taken at Westminster as another sign of his determination to press his case that a referendum on a single currency would be a mistake.

Yesterday Mr Major came under pressure from the Tory party faithful to oppose a single European currency as they demanded a clear right-wing agenda for the next election. As he prepared to travel to Turin tomorrow, they expressed their hostility to further European integration.

In the biggest such survey, 30,000 Tories across the country last autumn demanded the reform of Europe's agriculture and fisheries policies and a curb on the powers of the European Court of Justice. They called for tax and welfare cuts, a boost to home ownership, fresh support for the family and a return of British heroes such as Drake, Nelson and Churchill to school history lessons.

The Prime Minister ordered the survey last May to give grassroots members the chance to help to shape poli-

cies for the next election. *Our Nation's Future*, published yesterday, will be fed into the Downing Street Policy Unit and Cabinet committees drawing up the manifesto.

Although the party faithful said that Britain should remain a member of the European Union, they opposed further loss of British sovereignty. "There is common agreement that any move toward a 'United States of Europe' should be resisted fiercely and a clear view that no more powers should be transferred to Brussels," the report said.

"The single currency was a topic of serious debate in the constituencies. The majority of participants were sceptical about the benefits." However, they were divided over holding a referendum. Some argued that one was vital to decide constitutional issues. Others said a referendum was not needed because there were no circumstances in which a Tory government should take Britain into a single currency.

Although Dr Brian Cahill, the party chairman, made clear that the survey was not a manifesto blueprint, he said that it showed the membership to be broadly in tune with the party leadership.

MP hails press body's verdict

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent

A PRESS watchdog yesterday rebuked *The Sunday Times* for its methods in the "cash for questions" affair last year that led to two Tory MPs being suspended from the Commons for two weeks.

The Press Complaints Commission reversed its previous finding that the newspaper had been entitled to use subterfuge to test MPs' reactions to the offer of £1,000 for a Commons question. In 1994 a reporter posed as a businessman to approach 20 MPs. The article that followed led to the Nolan clampdown on MPs' outside earnings.

The commission said that *The Sunday Times* did not first gather enough hard information that an issue of serious public interest was at stake, the ground on which newspapers' Code of Practice allows the use of subterfuge.

One of the suspended MPs, Graham Riddick, yesterday claimed the new ruling vindicated him. He and his supporters on the Conservative benches said they would be appealing to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to reopen its inquiry into the conduct of the Colne Valley MP. Mr Riddick added that the commission had apologised for failing to take evidence from him before reaching its original verdict.

But John Witherow, editor of *The Sunday Times*, rejected Mr Riddick's interpretation of the commission's new findings set out in a letter from Lord Wakeham, its chairman, to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons. Mr Witherow said the statement was a fudge making



only trivial concessions to the MP and that the commission had also found that through its inquiry, the newspaper had "turned the spotlight on an area in which parliamentary procedures were open to abuse, raising an issue of serious public interest".

Mr Riddick said: "This adjudication exonerates my behaviour and restores my good name." He said the commission had ruled that *The Sunday Times* should have told its readers that its journalist, when posing as a businessman, discussed a perfectly legitimate paid consultancy with me during two substantive conversations. This proves that I did not accept cash for asking questions."

Labour candidate ordered to quit

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

A LABOUR parliamentary candidate who admits having taken part in terrorist activity in South Africa has been ordered to step down by the party's ruling body.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) has told John Lloyd, who was chosen by Labour to fight Exeter at the general election, that it will rescind his endorsement as candidate if he refuses to go.

In the early 1960s Mr Lloyd, now 54, was a member of the African Resistance Movement, which bombed targets such as electricity pylons and radio masts. He has also been accused of betraying John Harris, a fellow conspirator who was executed for planting a bomb at Johannesburg railway station that killed one person in 1964.

An NEC panel, which had been set up to look at his candidature in detail, agreed that Mr Lloyd had misled both the NEC and Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary. It concluded that "Mr Lloyd's lack of openness had undermined his position as a candidate."

Mr Lloyd said he was disappointed at the decision. He has no right of appeal. The local party executive will meet next Tuesday to discuss the selection of a new candidate.

Relatives of Mr Harris had written to the NEC complaining about Labour's selection of Mr Lloyd as its candidate. Mr Lloyd claims that he has been the victim of a "personal vendetta" by Mr Harris's son, David Wolfe, who is a barrister in the same chambers as Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.

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Brussels confirms ban but offers conditional aid

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

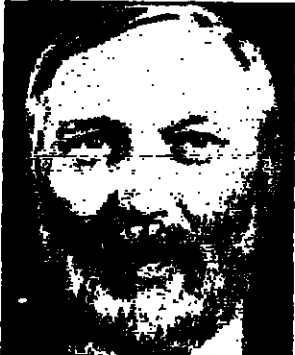
THE European Union confirmed its worldwide ban on the export of British beef and its by-products yesterday but offered financial help for British farmers provided that the Government came up with further measures to eradicate "mad cow" disease.

Britain's two EU Commissioners joined the 18 other members of the Brussels executive in ratifying the decision of EU national officials to declare a global embargo on any beef leaving Britain for human consumption, whether as meat or in products such as confectionary, medicine or lipstick. Milk and other dairy products were not affected. No member state has ever been forced by fellow EU members to take such action against its own wishes.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, said the confirmed ban was vital to restore confidence. It was futile to talk about scientific fact or evidence, he said. However, Herr Fischler added: "These measures are not set in stone forever. They will apply until the necessary steps are taken [by Britain]." The Veterinary Committee which voted the measures on Monday would be convened again in six weeks.

The comments, made in a speech to the European Parliament, reflected the anger in the Commission and in other member states towards what is seen as the Government's mishandling of the emergency. Herr Fischler complained that the Commission, which is responsible for managing agriculture in the EU, had been given only half an hour's warning ahead of the announcement last week in the House of Commons. Last weekend he wrote a strong letter of complaint to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister.

The battle of wills pitting Britain against the Commission and the EU's national



Fischler: seeking to protect other states



farm authorities has cast a shadow over tomorrow's one-day summit of EU leaders in Turin to launch the inter-governmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty.

Under the ban, Britain must report every fortnight on progress in tackling BSE, and a committee would be set up under Professor Charles Weissmann, a prominent Swiss specialist in BSE, to monitor the situation. The Commission urged Britain to take further steps: officials said this meant that the Government was expected to order the slaughter of cattle as quickly as possible.

In return, the EU would

Farmer's fury

A French farmer whose herd of 110 cattle is to be slaughtered after one of his cows was found to have BSE grabbed a British reporter by the hair yesterday when asked how he felt. "You English bastard, you give my cows BSE then you want to know how I feel," he belted. Georges Hourman, Britany, claims that his cows were infected by feed imported from Britain.

take action to lighten the financial burden on British producers. The Commission would "consider any means of assisting the UK in either a technical and/or financial way on the basis of a UK proposal," it said. Farmers would also benefit from the EU's market support mechanisms. This was the first confirmation that British beef slaughtered to eradicate BSE would qualify for the subsidies paid through the common agricultural policy to maintain beef prices.

Commission officials said special measures would be necessary to transfer funds for compensating Britain from the Union's coffers. Only about £55 million is allocated for disease eradication and this has been exhausted.

Sir Leon Brittan, one of the British Commissioners, won the agreement from the Commission to make available EU funds for compensation in return for approving the ban along with his colleagues, officials said. Sir Leon drafted the text committing the commission to recommending the use of union resources once a package of measures had been agreed with the British Government.

Herr Fischler said: "It is not our objective to isolate the United Kingdom for as long as possible. These are emergency measures that will last as long as necessary."

Herr Fischler said the chief aim at the moment was to prevent a market collapse in other member states. Controls would be strictly enforced, although this would not go as far as confiscating lipsticks from travellers crossing the Channel. Commission officials would visit the UK to inspect the eradication programme, he continued. The ban would be maintained as long as a threat remained.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20 Letters, page 21



Dorothy Churchill and her son Stephen, who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

Victim's family demand an apology from Dorrell

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE family of Stephen Churchill, who died last year from a brain condition since linked to "mad cow" disease, have written to the Health Secretary to express their shock at remarks he made in a radio programme.

Dorothy and David Churchill, Stephen's parents, and his sister Helen, 21, told Stephen Dorrell: "It is with an overpowering sense of disgust that we are forced to write to you regarding your offensive remarks made publicly. That you should have the effrontery to query that the British public are going mad, rather than the cows, must rate as your most crass statement ever. We demand a public

apology for the offence caused and reiterate our calls for a public and independent inquiry into these matters."

Mr Dorrell made the remarks during an appearance on Call Nick Ross on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday, in response to a barrage of criticism from callers, many of them mothers of young children.

He said: "I agree with *The Sun* this morning, which says it isn't the cows that are mad, it's the people. What the people have to do, what all of us have to do, is step back from the hysteria and believe the facts."

Mrs Churchill, from Devizes, Wiltshire, said yesterday: "Words failed me

when I heard that. We were all deeply shocked by it, as were all of our friends and neighbours."

A statement issued last night by the Department of Health said: "Mr Dorrell has great sympathy for Stephen Churchill's parents. He was replying to a query about the point that he agreed with the *Sun* editorial and making the point that he agreed with *The Sun* that public hysteria about the possible link between BSE and CJD was out of all proportion to the risk and the scientific evidence."

Stephen Churchill died on May 21 last year, a month after his nineteenth birthday. Scientists have since identified him as one of ten victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease likely to have been caused by eating meat infected with BSE.

Ministers face questions from all sides over BSE policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS and their advisers faced four hours of questioning from MPs yesterday on the background and implications of the BSE scare.

The Commons Agriculture and Health Select Committees called Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to give details of government policy. Also among the witnesses were Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, chairman of Seac, the BSE advisory committee. The following are some of the exchanges.

At the start Mr Dorrell said: "Yesterday the argument moved on. The best available evidence demonstrates that British beef and beef products can be safely eaten both here and around the world. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef. The question now is a matter of consumer confidence."

Edward Leigh, Tory MP and a member of the agriculture committee: "We are faced with a crisis of confidence in a great British industry. What policy options is the Government considering? What is the cost and what is the purpose of such policies? We have had various proposals, not least what seems to be a very sensible one of dairy cows coming to the end of their lives being bought by the Government."

Mr Hogg: "There is no recommendation from Seac for any kind of policy which involves slaughter. Seac haven't recommended that we take out of the human food chain the older cow."

"The core of National Farmers' Union proposals is that 30-month-old cows should not enter the food chain. Seac has considered the question of the older cow and recommended that... the older cow can be sold into the food chain but in a deboned state. That is where

the scientific evidence and recommendations rests."

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory chairman of the agriculture committee, asked Professor Pattison: "Would you not agree that the likelihood of BSE-infected food appearing on the dinner plate is as near zero as is humanly possible?"

Professor Pattison: "I believe that is now the case."

David Congdon, Tory member of the health committee: "Can't anyone make some sort of assessment as to what 'extremely low' [risk] is? Is it one in a million, one in ten million?"

Professor Pattison: "Everyone in the land would be grateful if we could put a figure of one in 100 million on it. If you have a small risk it can actually multiply up to a large number of cases... if everyone in the country ate an average amount of beef you might not get one case."

John Marshall, Tory member of the health committee: "Is there not a danger of a British industry being sold down the river by individuals who pretend there is a problem in Britain and no problem anywhere else in the world?"

Keith Meldrum: "The extent to which there is under-reporting is hard to determine. It is fair to say that the problem in the UK is significantly greater than in other countries."

Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour member of the agriculture committee, referred to withdrawal of public money from a scientist researching BSE: "There has been an effective attempt to undermine work that was being done, because it didn't suit ministers."

Mr Dorrell: "It is a grotesque misrepresentation of the Government's position to suggest that the Department of Health should not be interested in pursuing any course that is going to deliver better understanding of a threat to human health."

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'Pre-eminence of A levels has led to expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created'

Dearing calls for tougher exams to stretch high flyers

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

STANDARDS

HIGH-FLYING students will be encouraged to take revised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch sixth-formers.

Sir Ron's *Review of Qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds* calls for A levels to be made more difficult in a range of subjects, including English and business studies. Independent research had shown standards were uneven and "levelling up" should take place over a five-year period.

Examination boards will be required to monitor standards over time. Restrictions will be placed on the development of modular A levels, which have shown significantly higher pass rates than traditional examination-based courses.

Those who still find A level pitched below their natural ability will be offered Special Papers (S levels) or units from degree courses. S levels have been in decline for many years because they do not count towards university entrance. Sir Ron proposes that revamped Special Papers should be based on A-level syllabuses, testing students to a higher standard. An alternative would be to set high flyers extended assignments, requiring research or in-depth exploration of a topic.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Sec-

retary, asked Sir Ron to ensure that the rigour of A levels was maintained when she commissioned his inquiry almost a year ago. His report says that changes within subjects and a shortage of archive material make it difficult to pronounce accurately on claims that standards have been slipping in recent years.

He says that, as the Government's academic "gold standard", A levels have stood the test of time. But the examination was established 45 years ago to select an elite for higher education, and too many students not suited to academic study were now starting courses and dropping out.

"The historic pre-eminence of A levels has led to their expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created," his report says. The new examinations structure should encourage many students to take applied or vocational courses instead.

Sir Ron sees the proliferation of A-level syllabuses as a possible threat to standards, as schools switch between examination boards to find the easiest. Decisions for schools and colleges to change boards should be taken by heads and principals under formal procedures and regulatory bodies should encourage a reduction in the number of syllabuses. Students taking modular

courses, who are able to improve their grades by re-sitting examinations, should be limited in the number of times they can retake units. Final examinations should account for a minimum of 30 per cent of the marks.

In the future, traditional and modular A levels could be unified, with "final" exams covering the whole of a two-year course.

Sir Ron acknowledged that particular concerns have been raised about the drop in mathematics and science entries at A level. Academics have complained that A-level mathematics now leaves out so many "difficult" topics that they have to give many new undergraduates remedial lessons.

The report recommends new GCSE additional mathematics courses to narrow the gap to A level. Government regulatory bodies should consult examining boards about enlarging the mandatory core of both science and mathematics A levels, so that more topics would be covered by every student.

Education, page 17
Leading article, page 21



A-level students at work yesterday at 'Tiffin girls' school in Kingston upon Thames

Vocational study could ease plight of disaffected

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LOW ACHIEVERS

THOUSANDS of teenagers failing to achieve the lowest level of academic success at school should try vocational study in a college or the workplace, yesterday's report recommended.

Sir Ron Dearing, who left school at 16 with few qualifications, has been particularly struck by the plight of the thousands who leave school unqualified and disaffected every year. He said school should remain the centre of education up to the age of 16 but from 14 the disenchanted and other low achievers should have regular sessions in different environments to see if they can be motivated.

Sir Ron said it was a matter of national concern that more than 40,000 16-year-olds, 3 per cent of the year group, leave school every year without the lowest academic qualification to their name, a grade G at GCSE. In 1994, nearly 80,000 in English and 90,000 in mathematics did not get a grade G, the level expected of the average 11-year-old.

His proposed new structure of National Levels embracing all qualifications represents the three existing tiers but adds a foothold for those not recording any success. Sir Ron

rejected extending the GCSE ladder below grade G (to H, I etc) and is instead calling on schools and colleges to develop a range of Entry-level qualifications, aimed lower than anything on offer at present.

Sir Ron said: "Some 20 per cent of our young people do not achieve a qualification in both the core subjects of English and mathematics, and that clouds their whole future. To encourage, motivate and recognise the achievement of such young people must be a major objective."

The priority for Entry level would be to recognise communication, numeracy and information technology. Scales used to assess 11-year-olds could form the basis of Entry-level criteria.

Sir Ron added that teenagers who play truant or have lost interest in school may respond to the "more adult environment" of a further education college. He wants schools to link with colleges to create education programmes for low achievers.

The Association for Colleges welcomed the report and said its members would work with schools, provided disenchanted teenagers were not "dumped" on them.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

NEARLY 200 recommendations are made in Sir Ron Dearing's report, including:

- A national framework for all qualifications of four levels: entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced.
- Remaking the advanced GNVQ the "applied A level".
- Making the applied A level the same size as a single A level (currently advanced GNVQs take the curriculum time of two A levels).
- Higher standards required in some A levels, including English and art.
- An Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination to replace the present AS level, based on the first half of an A-level syllabus, to encourage four or five choices at 16 rather than three full A levels.
- A new range of qualifications for low-achievers at entry level, below a GCSE grade G.
- The chance for study sessions at further education colleges or in the workplace for under-achievers at 14.

- Opportunities for high achievers to take units of university courses while still at school or college.
- Encouragement for high achievers to take Special level papers and a possible course in the theory of knowledge.
- A National Advanced Diploma to recognise high achievement.
- Emphasis on the key skills of communication, numeracy and information technology as part of the new National Certificates and Diplomas.
- Improvements to course and careers guidance.
- Relaunch Youth Training as a system of National Traineeships.
- Revision and relaunch of individual National Records of Achievement for students to use to record all their achievements and plan future learning.
- Improvements to the assessment and rigour of GNVQs.
- Review of training for teachers of 16 to 19-year-olds.

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Candidates and employers welcome reforms and say courses fail to prepare students for A levels

Sixth-form pupils say GCSEs are too easy

By DAVID CHARTER

STUDENTS criticised GCSEs as too easy in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing's review. It also showed that many A-level students would prefer continuous assessment, rather than all examinations coming at the end of their courses.

There has been little acceptance of advanced GNVQs by pupils aiming for university, and many doubted the relevance of A levels for later life.

The GCSE, which replaced O levels in 1986, was responsible for some students dropping out of A levels because GCSEs had not prepared them adequately. Overall, 85 per cent of A-level students described their courses as "much harder" than GCSEs.

One university student commented: "At GCSE you don't have to do very much at all. You can spend the best part of 18 months just sitting in lessons talking to people and writing down whatever is put in front of you." Other stu-

STUDENT VIEW

dents criticised the lack of depth in the combined science GCSE, which merges physics, chemistry and biology into a "double award" qualification. They said that those planning to take science A levels should be advised to take separate subjects at GCSE and called for an increase in the coverage and depth of all GCSEs.

A-level students were critical of the system in which all examinations came at the end of their courses. They and GNVQ students favoured a modular structure in which different sections of courses are assessed at regular intervals by testing or coursework.

Another drawback with A levels was felt to be the way in which they restricted the choice of university courses. Their narrow focus could also mean a difficult transition to new subjects at degree level.

These points were particularly emphasised by high achievers. One typical com-



□ Jane de Swell, head of Henrietta Barnett School, north London.

"I welcome the reforms, particularly the horizontal AS levels with an exam at the end of year 12. Doing four subjects, which the students are not forced to continue, is a great opportunity for breadth and a strong motivating factor. But it is the S levels I have reservations about: they are very demanding and if they require additional teaching it might be impossible to find staff. My budget certainly wouldn't allow that."



□ Tony Webb, Confederation of British Industry director of education and training.

"The opening of the range of options for students is particularly welcome and will increase the likelihood of making students attractive to employers. Sir Ron Dearing is saying that there are a variety of education customers out there, all with their individual needs and facing different challenges. These proposals enable them to take up new options, while the rest can continue as before. That is a welcome change to the system."



□ Kate Orebmann, the Marks & Spencer manager of recruitment.

"Widening the choice of subjects and relating them more to the world outside academia is a good thing. Teamwork is important and students practise it at GCSE level and at university. So far A levels have been an anomaly in the middle. The changes proposed would seem to address some of that. But while S levels might be suitable to some, there is more to gain from a university education than academic knowledge."



□ Jon Ashworth, London School of Economics Vice-Chancellor.

"I took two S levels myself so I must be in favour of them. I thoroughly enjoyed them and they were very useful when I started university. But one mustn't forget that universities are very different from schools. I see no reason in principle why applied A levels shouldn't be good enough to go on to university. It all depends on the nature of the university course. Some institutions will be very interested in this, particularly the technological universities."

ment was: "The A-level curriculum is not broad enough in that it is good to stretch students and it is also good to provide students with a range of non-curriculum activities." Seventeen per cent of the A-level students questioned said they would have liked a greater number of subjects but in less detail.

The survey also showed that the introduction of advanced GNVQs as a means of entry to

some universities has had limited impact. One third of GNVQ candidates were aiming for university, compared with 82 per cent of A-level students. Four fifths of A-level students surveyed had five or more A to C grades at GCSE, compared with one third of GNVQ students.

Four out of ten A-level students said that they would recommend their course because it was interesting,

compared with 33 per cent of GNVQ candidates. GNVQ students were much more likely than A-level students to have had work experience included in their course.

All students agreed that "core skills" were useful, placing communication top, followed by teamwork and "skills for work". Only one in five saw foreign languages as a worthwhile skill.

The survey covered more

than 150 schools and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It also showed that students were nearly three times as likely to find their choice of course restricted in small sixth forms or colleges than they were at bigger institutions. More than half of all A-level and GNVQ students said their choice of course was influenced by a careers officer or teacher, rather than by friends or family.

Revolution may fail to smash class barriers

COMMENTARY

SIR RON DEARING produced a blueprint yesterday for a revolution in qualifications after the age of 16. His 200 recommendations cover everything from spirituality in the sixth form to raising the status of vocational courses, toughening up A levels and attracting more teenagers to science.

The Government's chief curriculum adviser started from the premise that young people in Britain were studying too narrowly and achieving too little. His eight-volume report ranges far beyond the familiar territory of the traditional sixth form into training and even courses for disaffected pupils.

By creating a single framework covering both academic and vocational courses, Sir Ron hopes to raise standards and unlock potential among those ill-served by existing programmes.

Sir Ron was asked to square the circle of maintaining the "gold standard" of A levels while encouraging greater breadth of study after 16 and further developing vocational qualifications. Seasoned Dearing-watchers will recognise some of the techniques he has used to carry off the trick.

Vocational Qualifications, for example, will not follow the same rules as the academic variety, where coursework is limited and there are restrictions on modular courses. Although a new points system should give them equal currency for university entrance, admissions tutors will not necessarily agree.

Nor is the report certain to prevent the early specialisation that most experts consider a damaging feature of the present system. Sir Ron moved away from his initial plan to require sixth-formers to take courses in more than one area, leaving students to decide for themselves.

Students will be able to keep their options open by taking up to five one-year AS levels, including one devoted to "key skills" such as communication and teamwork, but three A levels are likely to remain the passport to a top university.

Those who see the value of broader study will mix and match courses from different academic disciplines with vocational programmes, gaining credit for all of them. But many head teachers believe that only compulsion will prevent the opening of a new divide, in which obviously academic sixth-formers ignore the opportunities provided by Sir Ron.

Government and Opposition support most of the recommendations. Teachers' organisations and business leaders were also largely supportive yesterday.

There is something in the report for all of them: tougher A levels and a revival of the S level for critics of standards, a more prestigious name and a single framework of qualifications for the vocational courses lobby, reformed AS levels and an all-embracing National Advanced Diploma for those most concerned about breadth of study. But some will see contradictions. The new Applied A levels (hitherto General National

The report goes further than before to break down the barriers between academic and vocational study. Sir Ron also takes on the reluctance to study mathematics and sciences, but he finds few simple answers other than to make arts A levels more difficult. Both traits are deeply engrained in the national psyche and will take more than one report to overcome.

JOHN O'LEARY

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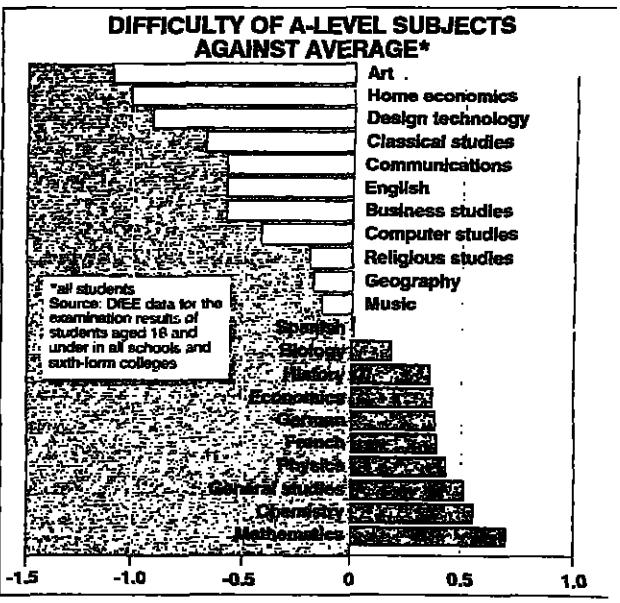
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Vertical text on the right margin, possibly a page number or reference code.

Footer text at the bottom right corner, including contact information and a date.



Schweitzer: prominent in militia movement

Secessionist gunmen defy US justice as FBI closes in on ranch

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DAWN on the high, snow-touched plains of Montana yesterday found 100 FBI agents crouched in surveillance positions outside a remote ranch. Inside the compound were an estimated 20 members of the "Freemen", a heavily armed militia group which does not accept the legitimacy of the United States and has refused to surrender to police. The stakeout entered its third day

after the arrest on Monday of the militia's two leaders. In a federal court in the nearby city, Billings, the men, LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Peterson Jr, shouted insults and demanded that they be tried in their own self-styled "country" of "Justus Township". For the FBI agents at the 960-acre ranch in Garfield County, meanwhile, came chilling rumours that militia groups from other parts of the United States may be heading towards Montana, like stampeding

bison, to "monitor" the siege and "ensure" there is no repeat of the violence that ended the six-week stand-off at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993. Federal officials are anxious to prevent violence and Sherry Matteucci, a lawyer, made a televised appeal to militia members, who are said to include women and children. "We intend you no harm," she said. "Our goal is for you to come in peacefully." The police prevented access to the

Freemen's ranch, which is about 20 miles from the village of Jordan (population: 450), and aircraft were forbidden to fly over the area. Until November the farm was owned by two brothers who belonged to the militia, Ralph and Emmett Clark, but they lost it to a bank. The new owners want to move in to start spring planting. Their complaints finally forced the police to take action. So threatened by the Freemen have Jordan villagers been feeling

that they had considered starting a vigilante group to "get trained, get arms and go in and do it", according to Tom Stanton, 59, who owns a neighbouring plot of land. Reporters who tried to approach Justus Township were abused. A Polish reporter said he was shot at, and an ABC television crew was relieved of \$66,000 (£42,000) in equipment. Louanne Biggerstaff, a local woman who knew LeRoy Schweitzer at school, recalled a boy who even then showed "a lot of inspira-

tional leadership qualities". Mr Schweitzer is a prominent figure in the militia movement and "pilgrims" have been known to travel across the United States to see him. He and other Freemen are accused of fraud and of advocating violence for political ends. The name of Justus spells out the desire of the Freemen to create their own rules and codes of behaviour. In place of modern American law, they recognise parts of common law, the Bible and Magna Carta.

British hitch-hiker tells murder trial of battle to escape

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

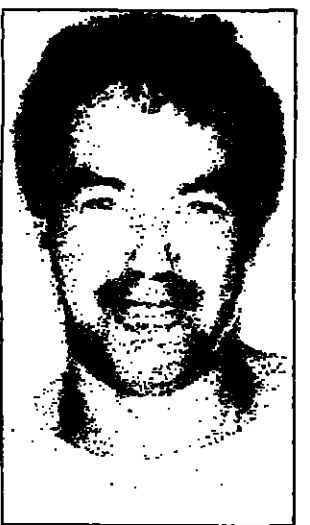
A BRITON described yesterday how he dodged bullets and ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire. He escaped only after struggling from the grasp of the alleged murderer and throwing himself in front of a passing vehicle. Paul Onions, 29, is the only known survivor of the man accused of carrying out the "backpacker murders". He told the Supreme Court in Sydney that he was hitch-hiking alone six years ago when Ivan Milat picked him up near the entrance to the Belanglo State Forest, where the remains of his seven alleged victims were found. Mr Onions, from Willenhall, West Midlands, said he found himself staring in disbelief when Mr Milat pulled out a gun. "The main thing I remember was the copper tips of the bullets in the chamber, so I knew it was real. The gun was pointing straight at me. I could feel my voice shaking. I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Calm down, what's the problem?' He said, 'This is a robbery.'"

Mr Onions said he struggled free and threw himself in front of a van, forcing it to stop. He opened the door and jumped in, telling the frightened woman driver: "This man has got a gun." She drove him to a nearby police station. Mr Onions said he remembered his attacker had a moustache, of the style made famous by the former Australian Test cricketer Merv Hughes, "dark squinty eyes" and a stupid grin. Asked by the prosecution if the man was in court, Mr Onions turned and motioned at the defendant, sitting a few feet away. It emerged yesterday that detectives had waited five

months before following up a telephone call Mr Onions, an engineer, had made to New South Wales police in November 1993. He had telephoned them from England after the discovery of the bodies of two young British women and wanted to remind police of his encounter. It was not until April 1994 that an officer contacted him. A few weeks later Mr Onions was flown to Sydney where he identified Mr Milat from a videotape. Mr Milat, 51, has denied the murder of the seven hitch-hikers, including Joanne Walters, of Maesteg, and Caroline Clarke, of Surrey. All had been killed with a gun or knife. Mr Milat also denies kidnapping Mr Onions. Earlier, Mr Milat's sister-in-law had admitted in court that she altered the date on a photograph to the weekend the two British women disappeared. The picture of Mr Milat on a camping holiday was originally dated Easter 1991, but Carolynne Milat changed the date to Easter 1992. She denied she had altered the date after her brother-in-law was arrested. "Did you do it to provide an alibi for him?" Mark Tedeschi, for the prosecution, asked. "Definitely not," she replied. Mrs Milat, who is married to one of the defendant's brothers, William, claimed it was a mistake. Mrs Milat told the court that her brother-in-law had been at a family gathering at his mother's house on Boxing Day 1991 when another two of his alleged victims, Anja Habschied and Gabor Neugebauer, were last seen alive. She said she remembered Ivan urging one of the children to fire a water pistol at her when she arrived at the front door. Mrs Milat said her husband and other members of the family were also there. As the witness left the court, a man accompanying her kicked and punched a newspaper photographer. The case continues.



Onions: threw himself in front of passing van



Milat: accused of killing seven backpackers



Goya's *Third of May, 1808*, in which the painter depicted the execution of royalist rebels in Madrid during the Napoleonic wars in Spain

Spain's year of Goya to be given a royal send-off

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

KING JUAN CARLOS and Queen Sofia of Spain will open the Goya exhibition at Madrid's Prado art museum today at the start of national celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the Spanish painter's birth. The Spanish ministries responsible

for culture and tourism have formed a state company, Goya 96, to promote the anniversary. More than £3 million will be spent on 16 exhibitions, five congresses, a film, a ballet, a play and an opera, all dedicated to aspects of Goya's life. The federal bank, Argentaria, is sponsoring the events. Tickets to the Prado exhibition, which will last until June 2,

cost 1,000 pesetas (£5). Until recently it was difficult to obtain tickets for important cultural events in Spain, so a new telephone reservation and credit card payment service has been widely welcomed. So far, 4,000 tickets have been sold. Several luxury hotels are offering a package with goyesco entertainments, such as dining in one of old Madrid's

mesones, where the painter enjoyed Castilian roast baby lamb and suckling pig, or attending a goyesco corrida, a traditional-style bullfight, a spectacle frequently portrayed by Goya. The Prado's Goya collection has been supplemented by 30 works from around the world, many returning to Spain for the first time.

Presidents vow to help each other

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton and President Yeltsin agreed earlier this month to give each other political support before the approaching American and Russian presidential elections. Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin he "wanted to make sure that everything the United States did would have a positive impact and nothing should have a negative impact", according to a classified account of their meeting at the recent anti-terrorism summit in Egypt, leaked to yesterday's *Washington Times*. "The main thing is that the two sides not do anything that would harm the other," Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin. "Things could come up between now and the elections in Russia or the United States which could cause conflicts." The White House acknowledged the quotes were accurate but questioned their interpretation. On a lighter note, Mr Yeltsin proposed providing

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, with a "young attractive instructor" to teach him Russian. Mr Clinton agreed that such a move would certainly change Mr Christopher's image. Meanwhile in Washington, Ross Perot and Pat Buchanan continued to plague Bob Dole after he claimed the Republican presidential nomination following an overwhelming victory in the California primary. Mr Perot embarked on a national speaking tour to promote his new Reform Party, which threatens to split the anti-Clinton vote and ensure the President's re-election. Mr Buchanan today meets nearly 50 top supporters at his home in the wealthy Washington suburb of McLean to compile a list of demands dubbed the "McLean Manifesto". He has left open the possibility of running as an independent and further fragmenting the Republican vote if these demands are ignored.

Nixon tapes reveal dirty tricks

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MORE than 3,000 hours of Richard Nixon's secretly recorded tapes, covering White House dirty tricks and his historic dealings with China and the Soviet Union, will be

released under an agreement between the Justice Department, the National Archives and his executors. The tapes represent a treasure trove for historians in search of a greater understanding of Nixon's ability to establish detente with Mos-

cow and an opening to Peking while also conducting high crimes against his political foes. The first 200 hours of the recordings will focus on the web of illegal acts connected with the Watergate scandal, including misuse of the FBI and the CIA.

Satirists leap on Dole's third party rhetoric

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AT his party in Washington to celebrate clinching the Republican presidential nomination, Bob Dole declared that the battle for America's future had begun, adding: "That's where Bob Dole will lead us." Mark it up as another example of Mr Dole's Third Personspeak — a recurring idiosyncrasy. He often sums up his stump speeches with the remark: "That's what Bob Dole is all about." Pat Buchanan has also fallen into Third Personspeak, which is becoming a rich vein for mimicry and ridicule. National Public Radio challenged listeners to furnish quotations where similar self-references would have ruined the whole effect. A few of the early favourites: "Frankly, my dear, Rhet Butler doesn't give a damn." "How does Elizabeth Bar-

rett Browning love thee? Let Elizabeth Barrett Browning count the ways." Then there is: "John Lennon is the walrus." From *Moby Dick*: "Call Ishmael, Ishmael." Then there were: "Winston Churchill has nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." "That's one small step for Neil Armstrong, one giant leap for mankind." From *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It is a far, far better thing that Sydney Carton does than Sydney Carton has ever done." And: "Claudius, Claudius." Richard Nixon was the first modern exponent of political Third Personspeak. After losing the 1962 California governor's race, he told reporters, wrongly as it turned out: "You won't have Nixon to kick around any more."

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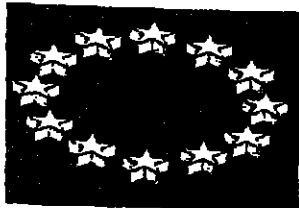
Algerian militants seize 7 Trappist

SIX

IN MEMORIAM ALAN FISHER

Farm crisis drives Britain towards European fold

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



TURIN SUMMIT

A WEEK of Europe-wide convulsions over "mad cow disease" has cast a harsh new light on tomorrow's European Union summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference.

The BSE crisis has pushed John Major to the centre of the stage, where he will receive the sympathies of his continental colleagues, with a little lecturing on the blessings of "solidarity".

President Chirac set the tone yesterday with a call to the French Cabinet to support Britain in its hour of need and to give generously when compensating British farmers. Philippe Vasseur, the Farming Minister, spelt out what France expects for helping Mr

Major. Britain, he said, must return the favour over the "unfair" benefits it obtains from the depreciating pound. Britain's alleged abuse of "competitive devaluation" is France's main complaint against London as Paris keeps its franc strong ahead of monetary union. However, the beef crisis has offered a parable in what is

right and wrong in the European enterprise as it embarks on reform for the next century. According to some senior diplomats and officials in Brussels, it has also provided a chance to bring Britain closer to its neighbours. A demonstration of EU generosity towards British farmers could dim the EU's demon status in the eyes of many Britons.

The general view is that the British Government has mishandled the emergency, requiring other members, through the Commission, to step in with their own quarantine and calls for slaughter.

That view was summed up by Belgium's *Le Soir* yesterday. The country which endlessly lectured its partners on the horrors of the common agricultural policy now expected to be bailed out from Brussels, the paper said.

In Germany, a tone of weary resignation has flooded the editorial columns. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said the BSE crisis hardly helped at a time when Britain was already planning to dig in its heels at the inter-governmental conference (IGC).

However, while the rest of Europe has been congratulating itself, the beef crisis has once again exposed all the flaws in the 15-member union that was defined by the Maastricht treaty.

Instead of pulling together, as dictated by the "solidarity" preached in all the continental Euro-rhetoric, the moment the word was out on CJD, the national drawbridges were slammed shut to British beef.

As *Le Figaro* said yesterday: "All those frontiers that were supposed to disappear suddenly sprang back and everyone tried to extract a bit of profit for himself out of the crisis."

As the EU circus was beginning to fly into Turin for the first act of the year-long negotiation, the Commission's pollsters unearthed damning news. Only 15 per cent of EU citizens were aware that the Union was about to launch its Maastricht review.

Letters, page 21



The Duke inspects Krakow's only functioning synagogue with Menahem Joskowitz, the Chief Rabbi of Poland

Ex-Communists welcome the Queen

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN PRAGUE

CENTRAL Europe turned out in its thousands yesterday to see the Queen on her historic progress through the old Communist states, first in the late winter snow of Krakow and later in the warm spring sunshine of Prague.

On the last day of her state visit to Poland, the first by a reigning British monarch, a crowd defied foul weather and packed the main square of Poland's ancient and largely unspoilt capital to see the Queen make a walkabout among glorious baroque architecture that has survived despite appalling pollution. Among the crowd was a small delegation from the Polish Monarchist League.

Krakow has far more traditions of monarchy than does the modern capital of Warsaw. Not only was it the seat of Polish kings until the abolition of the throne in 1795, it subsequently fell under the relatively benign rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire while much of the rest of the country was governed by Germans or Russians. During her tour of the city's



Queen admires a doll in regional costume

historic buildings, the Queen visited the vast, dark interior of St Mary's Church and heard the truncated bugle call that is sounded every hour from its soaring spire, in memory of the medieval century who sounded the alarm at the approach of the invad-

ing Mongols and was shot through the neck by a Tartar arrow in mid blow.

In the Wawel cathedral on a hill above the city, the Queen laid a wreath on the tomb of General Sikorski, the wartime Polish military leader.

The Duke of Edinburgh toured Krakow's former Jewish ghetto, still much as it was in prewar days and used for the re-enactment of scenes in the film *Schindler's List*.

Wearing the regulation kippah (black skullcap), he inspected the city's only remaining working synagogue, and saw an exhibition of a restoration project on some of the area's historic buildings being carried out with help from Edinburgh City Council.

What has changed in the ghetto is the population. Before the Nazi occupation, Krakow was home to 70,000 Jews. Such was the efficiency of ethnic cleansing that today there are barely 200.

Later in the day, the Queen flew to the Czech Republic, where again she is the first British reigning monarch to pay a state visit. She was welcomed at Prague Castle by the recently widowed President, Vaclav Havel.

Historically, the Czech Republic has less reason than Poland to offer hospitality to a British monarch. Britain turned its back on Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939, yet went to war for Poland only months later.

But the European game is different now; both countries are prepared to court any Western leader likely to further their membership of the European Union and Nato.

President Havel told journalists in the castle that Czech-British friendship had existed for 1,000 years and that the Queen's visit was a symbol of continuing good relationships.

Pressed on specifics, he said that the Czech Republic was anxious to join Western institutions. "If there is the will, our membership of Nato might precede EU membership. That might be a desirable thing."

The ceremonies of welcome over, the President took the Queen for a walk in the late afternoon sun across the Charles Bridge, one of Prague's great architectural monuments, where another crowd of thousands offered warm applause to their rare royal visitor.

WORLD SUMMARY

Robber of royal gems faces jail

New York: A baggage handler at New York airport has pleaded guilty to stealing diamond jewellery from the Duchess of York's luggage. Gilbert Terrero, 20, of Brooklyn, faces up to 18 months in prison (Quentin Letts writes). The disappearance of the jewels on December 4, which included a necklace given to the Duchess by the Queen as a wedding present in 1986, created international headlines. Terrero, who had no idea of the owner of the gems, had taken some of the jewels to his family home in Brooklyn's Ozone Park, while others were found in his locker at work.

Woman named 3-star general

New York: America's armed forces have nominated their first female three-star general (Quentin Letts writes). Carol Mutter, 50, a major-general in the Marines, has been recommended for promotion to lieutenant-general. The Senate is not expected to object. General Mutter will be the only woman among 108 three-star generals. One of the first to congratulate her was her husband, James, a retired Marines colonel.

Okinawa leader shuns US bases

Tokyo: The Governor of Okinawa said he would refuse to obey a court order to sign documents renewing leases for US military bases on the island and said he would appeal. Governor Masahide Ota's refusal will force Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, to sign the leases instead. (Reuter)

Afghans hurt in munitions blast

Kabul: Twenty-five Afghan United Nations mine-clearing experts were injured when a blast ripped through a Taliban munitions dump in the militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar, sources said. The cause of the explosion is unknown. (AFP)

Italians seek single voice for the EU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THERE were increasing fears among Italian officials yesterday that tomorrow's Turin summit would be hijacked by the row between Britain and its European partners over "mad cow" disease.

Officials said Italy had hoped for a trouble-free summit to launch the inter-governmental conference on Maastricht. Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, believed EU leaders were close to agreement on giving Europe "a single identifiable face and voice" by appointing a senior figure to "represent Europe to the world".

Britain wants the powers of any representative to be limited, with foreign policy kept largely in the hands of national governments. Nor is it clear how a common defence policy could work. But officials said Susanna Agnelli had forged a "warm relationship" with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and that had helped to create a "positive mood" for Turin. Signora Agnelli said yesterday she hoped that Turin

would launch the debate on three themes: common foreign policy, reform of institutions and the rights of citizens. The summit had to give a "clear message" by affirming the "federal vocation" of the EU in the run-up to the summit in June.

The controversial single-currency issue has been kept off the Turin agenda and the Italians defused another potential row by formulating a compromise over the role of MEPs in the IGC. Signora Agnelli sounded a cautious note on the extension of majority voting, saying it had to be "carefully weighed".

Signora Agnelli, 74, has won praise from European diplomats for her tireless travelling since Italy took over the EU presidency in January. She was stung by the accusation of Richard Holbrooke, the senior US envoy, that Europe had "been asleep" during the Bosnia crisis, and chaired a Balkan summit in Rome last month to put the Dayton peace accord back on track.

Algerian militants seize 7 Trappists

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SEVEN French Trappist monks were kidnapped from their Algerian monastery yesterday by suspected Islamic terrorists, prompting the French Government to repeat calls for all French people resident in Algeria to return home immediately.

The monks, aged between 50 and 80, were abducted from the Trappist Tishshrine monastery in the town of Medea, 50 miles south of Algiers. No ransom demand has been received, but the Government identified the kidnapers as members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the Islamic groups fighting to topple the military-backed Algerian Government.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, immediately said that all 8,370 French citizens still living in Algeria, as well as tens of thousands of others holding dual French-Algerian nationality, should return to France. "I can only repeat, in the gravest and most solemn way, to all French people still in Algeria... you must return."

Since September 1993, 32 French citizens have been murdered by militants in Algeria, including seven belonging to religious orders. In 1994, the GIA vowed to eradicate all "Jews, Christians and polytheists" in Algeria.

A French government spokesman said the abduction was "an odious act against a religious community".

Why hardship drives Russians to eat people

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

WHEN police in the Crimean city of Sebastopol were called to investigate a murder this week, nothing had prepared them for the grisly scene that unfolded during a routine search of a block of flats.

Entering the home of a former convict, the officers found the mutilated remains of human bodies being prepared for eating. The flat's owner, her mother and her boyfriend, had been stabbed to death by the 33-year-old suspect and their bodies neatly butchered. In the kitchen investigators found the internal organs of two victims in saucapans, and nearby on a plate a freshly-roasted piece of human flesh.

Although the gruesome details of the killings have stunned Sebastopol, more shocking perhaps is the growing evidence suggesting that cannibalism is not an isolated problem, but is rife in the former Soviet Union.

In the past 12 months ten people from Siberia to St Petersburg, have been charged with killing and eating their victims. The authorities are at a loss to explain the phenomenon. Last month there were two cases of cannibalism. One man in the Siberian coal-mining town of Kemerovo was arrested after he admitted killing and cutting up a friend, and using his flesh as the filling for pelmeni, a Russian version of ravioli. Twice last year convicts in overcrowded prisons killed and ate their cellmates because they claimed they were hungry and wanted to



A cannibal in the Volga during the 1921 famine

relieve overcrowding. Criminal experts said that most cases of cannibalism were part of the general rise of serial killings which have increased because police resources are so stretched by rising crime and because of Russia's mounting economic and social problems.

Andrei Tkachenko, the director of the Serbsky Psychiatric Centre in Moscow, where serial killers are sent for observation, said that in the 1980s the centre received about three or five patients a year. Now on average at least ten serial killers are sent.

"If you were to get a complete figure, you would find that there are considerably more instances of serial murders in Russia now than anywhere else in the world," he told the *Moscow Times*. Cannibalism, in particular,

could just be the grim legacy of Russia's tortured history this century, when time and again the population has resorted to eating human flesh to survive.

The first recorded cases were during the famine of 1921, when the plight of the people in the Volga region was so great that a trade in human body parts flourished briefly.

Mass outbreaks of cannibalism emerged again during the period of Stalin's collectivisation in the 1930s, when millions died of starvation in Ukraine and many resorted to ambushing and eating strangers and children.

"These were people who cut up and ate corpses, who killed their own children and ate them," wrote Vasilii Grossman, a Soviet writer. "I saw one. She had been brought to the district centre under cover. Her face was human but her eyes were those of a wolf."

Andrei Chikatilo, the notorious serial killer known as the "Rostov Ripper", provided a clue to his morbid obsession before he was executed in 1994 for murdering more than 50 people during his reign of terror in southern Russia. Under interrogation Chikatilo, who not only raped and butchered his victims but ate parts of their bodies, said he had been haunted by the memory of his brother who was eaten by starving peasants in Ukraine.

Aleksandr Bukhanovsky, a criminal psychiatrist, said that the murderer's ghastly childhood memories triggered a revulsion and the urge to perform similar acts.

IN MEMORY OF
ALAN FULLER
AGE 49 YEARS
SENIOR MANAGER
HERBIE FROGG
1969-1996

With the greatest sadness and regret, we inform all our friends and customers that Alan Fuller, senior manager of Herbie Frogg and 125 New Bond Street passed away on 22 March 1996.

As a mark of respect all Herbie Frogg Stores will be closed on Friday 29 March 1996.

UN plea for Burundi

Geneva: A United Nations investigator accused the international community yesterday of playing "a game of hide and seek" with Burundi, while the country is going through a civil war that has thousands dead (Peter Capella writes). Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the UN special investigator on human rights in Burundi, said that international at-

tempts to deal with the confrontation between rival ethnic groups in the past 11 months had been muddled and inadequate. "They play to find extremists. But what are they doing to find them? Nothing," the investigator said. He added that European countries in particular had shown much concern, but little action had been taken.

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Patten denounces Peking's plan for parallel rule

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature here, to extract a loyalty pledge from the Civil Service and to sideline the Governor, all before the 1997 handover of the colony.

China's newest blow to the colony, after Peking's humiliation in the Taiwan elections, was the suggestion that, once China has picked the members of a Provisional Legislative Council, which will sit concurrently with the present wholly elected one, and designated a chief executive to replace Mr Patten on July 1, 1997, "Mr Patten will inevitably become a loner". The idea

was mooted by an "official", reliably reported to be Lu Ping, head of the State Council's China and Macau Affairs Office.

The official also said that, after the chief executive has appointed his senior officials from among serving senior civil servants here, "it will be impossible for those officials to work under Mr Patten in the morning and under the instruction of the chief executive in the afternoon. I have to ask Mr Patten how the British-Hong Kong Government will operate. I do not know how Mr Patten can pass his days in the final stage."

"It appears to be a violation of the 1984 British-Chinese treaty, which states that the British Government will exercise full authority in the colony until its flag is lowered. The official also affirmed what his deputy had said, that senior civil servants would have to be loyal to the provisional legislature. This will force them to choose between Peking's orders and the policy of the Hong Kong Government, which denies the legitimacy of the Provisional Legislative Council, which will come into being at least six months before the handover. It will number among its hand-picked members 14 of those elected last year to the present council, which China says it will abolish on July 1, 1997. There will then be two councils and two de facto Governors in place.

Mr Patten said in response to the Chinese threats: "Government is not something you can turn on and off like an electric kettle. Government goes on. We have a politically neutral Civil Service." It would serve its present master loyally, Mr Patten said, and subsequently the post-1997 government. "Anyone who does not understand that, does not understand the nature of a free society under the rule of law."

It has already been suggested here that John Major should implement his guarantee, given during his recent trip to Hong Kong, that if the colony's liberty appears to be threatened by its future sovereign Britain would seek international legal redress.

□ Singapore: Hong Kong will remain the main port for southern China despite the development of ports in that region and even if Peking and Taipei establish direct trade links, Tony Clark, secretary of the Hong Kong Port Development Board, said.

Hong Kong now acts as the world port for China, particularly for Guangdong. "The question is, will Hong Kong remain the main port for southern China as other ports in the area are developed. Our assessment is that it will," he told a ports conference. (AFP)

Colony criticised by Privy Council

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

THE Privy Council yesterday branded the Hong Kong Government's treatment of four Vietnamese boatpeople "an affront" to civilised standards, ordering the immediate release of the one left in custody.

The reaction to the statement by Michael Beloff, QC, who held that "the right to liberty is second only to the right to life itself", will revive what has been Hong Kong's most bitter domestic political issue, and will weaken the Government's claim that it is a beacon of legality and human rights.

The ruling concerns four Vietnamese who have been denied refugee status, one of whom has been detained for six years. The four fled here with papers from the Taiwan Government, claiming that Hanoi denied them citizenship and seeking recognition as political refugees.

Many Hong Kong people may find themselves seeking refugee status in less than two years. However, most resent the fact that the colony has been forced to support the boatpeople. The United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees has steadily lost touch with the camps and the Government has been left with the task of forcing their repatriation to an unco-operative Vietnam.

The boatpeople now number 20,000 after the often reluctant repatriation of more than 46,000 others. Pam Baker, a British lawyer who has long defended them, said the decision would have profound significance for many others in the camps, some of whom have been detained for more than 15 years.

The Privy Council noted that at least 400 boatpeople have been refused re-entry to Vietnam, often on the grounds that they are not genuine Vietnamese, and are being held without trial.

Mr Beloff said there was "no realistic prospect of release" for many camp inmates, and that they must be set free unless the Government can show why their detention should continue.

Peking has emphasised repeatedly that it wants the Vietnamese repatriated or sent to other countries before China resumes control.



Yigal Amir, flanked by policemen, being escorted into court yesterday for sentencing

Killer of Rabin harangues court after life sentence

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YIGAL AMIR, 25, was sentenced yesterday for the premeditated murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, whom he assassinated last November in a religiously inspired attempt to derail the peace process with the Palestinians. Amir showed no remorse when the life sentence was read out.

Conspiracy theories that surround the controversial killing are likely to be heightened today when a 368-page report by the State Commission of Inquiry on the lamentable performance of Israel's security services is published. One-third of the report is classified as secret.

Judicial experts said Amir was likely to spend the rest of his life in a special cell complex for his own safety. A number of Israeli prisoners have already issued a warning that an attempt would be made to kill Amir.

Moshe Negbe, a legal expert, told Israel radio that Amir was an unlikely candidate for a normal presidential pardon and that the additional six-year consecutive sentence he received for wounding one of Rabin's bodyguards was therefore "meaningless".

Given the huge public interest, the Tel Aviv court allowed its verdict to be broadcast live. Oded Mudrik, one of the three judges who delivered the expected verdict, said: "Behind bars and within the prison

walls, the 'mark of Cain' will be imprinted on the forehead of the accused."

Amir, an extreme right-wing former law student, showed little emotion when sentence was passed. The judges were dismissive of defence claims that he had intended only to wound Rabin, 75, rather than kill him.

Amir, flanked by police, stood confidently with hand on hip and addressed the court for about four minutes before being stopped by Edmond Levy, the chief judge, who had shown little patience with him during the trial because of his attempts to use the stand as a platform for his militant views.

In his speech, Amir also said: "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah [Bible] of Israel, for the land of Israel. Whoever tries to break this link between these things will not succeed."

When Judge Levy cut him off, Mr Amir said: "May God help you." Later, as he was marched out of the packed court, he shouted: "The state of Israel is a monstrosity."

Passing sentence, Judge Levy said Amir "is unworthy of anything except pity; in that he has lost all semblance of humanity... He decided that putting the late Prime Minister to death was the last way to stop the political process which he did not like, and he followed this path to its end."

China 'staging fresh wargames'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAIPEI

CHINESE troops are staging a new round of mock battles against Taiwan, despite apparent conciliatory tones between Taipei and Peking, a leading Taiwanese newspaper said yesterday.

The exercises are smaller than the ones that ended on Monday, the *United Daily News* reported in a dispatch from New York.

The manoeuvres, reportedly being held inland, were said to be less menacing than the previous exercises, which disrupted shipping in the Taiwan Strait and were seen as capable of being turned quickly

into actual attacks. The report cited sources close to the Chinese military. Officials in Taiwan and China would not comment.

Yin Tsung-wen, the director of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, said yesterday that China was expected to conduct exercises on mountains and urban terrain that resembled Taiwan.

The exercises, code-named "Success 965", were reported in several cities and mountains in Fujian and Guangdong provinces. They involved troops from the 27th and 63rd legions, based in the

Peking military zone. About 180,000 troops were taking part in the exercises, compared to the 800,000 in three rounds of earlier wargames which were calculated to intimidate Taiwan, the paper reported.

In a separate report, the *United Daily News* quoted unidentified military officials as saying Taiwan would establish three bases for Patriot missiles in northern Taiwan to help to defend the capital city of Taipei. Bases would be set up in Nankang, Linkou and Wanli for the missiles, which would be delivered from the

United States late this year, it added.

□ Peking: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations Secretary General, who met Chinese leaders here during a four-day visit to China, said that Taiwan could never be a UN member "unless there is a change of mind in China," (James Pringle writes).

Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said America would face the "resolute opposition" of China and its people if Taiwan's newly elected President, Lee Teng-hui, was allowed to accept an invitation to visit the US.

Briton rejected freedom

BY LEVYA LINTON AND JONATHAN MILLER IN BANGKOK

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, the British charity worker taken hostage in northwestern Cambodia, rejected an offer of freedom because he did not want to abandon his Cambodian colleagues.

The kidnappers, believed to be Khmer Rouge deserters, told him to go to negotiate a ransom, but Mr Howes, 36, a Falklands ex-serviceman, refused. Instead, he persuaded the bandits to release nine captives. Others escaped and the rest, except Mr Howes's interpreter, were set free later.

Roy Howes, 68, from Bristol, said he was not surprised by his son's bravery. "He is just an ordinary Englishman doing his job," he said.

Mr Howes was seized with up to 28 volunteers on Tuesday as he supervised mine-clearing. Yesterday, two Cambodian policemen were killed by landmines as they helped to search for him.

Gunman holds seven hostage

Leienkaul, Germany: A gunman seized seven hostages, four of them children, in a western German village yesterday and threatened to kill them if his demands were not met, the police said.

They said the 45-year-old gunman had originally held 12 members of his own extended family captive, but it was not

immediately clear how the other five family members apparently had managed to get away.

The unnamed man from Mannheim was holding his hostages in a relation's house in Leienkaul, a village in rolling hills near Koblenz, on the Rhine. He was demanding 500,000 marks (£220,000) and

the opportunity to make good his escape.

The police opened negotiations by telephone, but said an early end to the siege was not in sight. They lifted a news blackout that had been imposed after the gunman said he would kill himself and his hostages if the media reported the incident. (Reuters)

Jackson's star dims in Oscars fiasco

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

AS HOLLYWOOD returns groggily to work, it has become clear that the only real loser on Oscar night was the Rev Jesse Jackson.

Mr Jackson's protest over the under-representation of blacks in films, which began with the revelation that only one Oscar nominee was African-American, has turned into a political damp squib and a personal humiliation.

After Whoopi Goldberg, the black actress, mocked him in front of a billion television viewers on Monday, Mr Jackson was dismissed yesterday by Patricia Turner, a professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, as "an unduly opportunistic man grasping for straws".

Mr Jackson urged Californian supporters to join him on Oscar night with banners and slogans outside ABC television's Los Angeles affiliate, but barely two dozen turned up. He urged the eight black celebrities appearing as presenters to wear rainbow-coloured ribbons in recognition of his Rainbow Coalition, but only the producer, Quincy Jones, did so.

Claiming in the aftermath of Hollywood's night of stars to be "at the centre of debate", Mr Jackson may have been accurate. But that debate concerns his judgment. Publicists for Ms Goldberg and Mr Jones told the *Los Angeles Times* that both considered the Oscars the wrong time and place for a protest.



Zia: stopped short of tendering resignation

Zia bows to pressure for election

Dhaka: Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee fresh elections, state television said.

Earlier, senior officials told the President that they could not work from today unless the country's political crisis was resolved.

The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to hold an election in May. It was reported, however, her move stopped short of meeting opposition demands that she resign yesterday.

Ayubur Rahman, Bangladesh's most senior civil servant, signed a statement saying: "The administration, economy and law and order have all collapsed. As there is no obstacle to... a caretaker government, we have suggested to the President that it be formed immediately."

Opposition parties have staged a series of strikes to try to force Begum Zia to resign and call new elections under a neutral body. (Reuters)

Here's one statement that doesn't tell the whole story.

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Women who trade faces

There are moments in life when a woman simply has to take on a new image, says Joe Joseph

When Sarah Ferguson's drawn, unsmiling, blanched face and kohl-rimmed eyes appeared on the front of *Hello!* this week, many people must have assumed that the world-hopping Duchess of York had volunteered to take part in some health education campaign to warn about the draining effects of multiple jetlag.

Then we found out that she had actually spent several hours with a make-up artist trying to achieve this ghostly Morticia Addams look, like those odd people who go to fancy-dress parties amusingly kitted out as accident victims.

It's certainly not a wash-and-go style, even for someone who doesn't have to rush to work first thing in the morning. Fancy photographic techniques and possibly computer enhancement may have heightened the ashen, single-chin look.

But what makes women who, until now, have been happily photographed as mumsy girls-next-door feel they suddenly have to play the vamp? The Princess of Wales did it, famously, in front of Patrick Demarchelier's flattering lens. The Duchess of Kent called on Snowdon, and later Demarchelier, when she wanted to show new faces to the world.

Emma Thompson did it for *Vanity Fair*, and Anthea Turner made a lunge at losing her Saturday-evening-family-entertainer image by posing for *Tatler* in a way that made her look sexyish, though not quite *femme fatale*.

"Quite often," says psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe, "all of us will change something about our appearance when we feel we've moved into a new phase in our lives. It may be just a matter of getting rid of a garment or a hairstyle."

Or maybe even your senses. Dr Martin Skinner, a psychologist at Warwick University, agrees that "people do go for a completely different look when there's been some big disjunction in their lives



HELLO! STUNNING NEW LOOK FOR THE DUCHESS OF YORK

DAZZLING EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS



HELLO! DEMI MOORE AND BRUCE WILLIS: NOW WITH AN IDAMO VILLAGE AND CINEMA TO CALL THEIR OWN. JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS: A PEEK INTO HER PRIVATE WORLD BEFORE THE HISTORIC AUCTION. URSULA ANDRESS CELEBRATES HER 60TH BIRTHDAY.

Famous makeovers: the Princess of Wales changed her image in front of Patrick Demarchelier's lens, while the Duchess of Kent called in Snowdon. The Duchess of York (centre) prefers the Morticia look

— after a breakup or when they have got a new job."

But hasn't she aped the Princess Diana *Panorama* look, with the black-rimmed eyes?

"Fergie quite often follows the Princess," Dr Rowe says. "Di works out, so does Fergie. Di uses kohl, so does Fergie."

But Diana doesn't walk around like she's just finished an eight-hour shift in a flour mill. What's the white face all about? Probably from those moody adverts in glossy women's mags for lipstick and mascara. If you squint hard enough, the restructured Fergie even has something of the pallid Marianne Faithfull about her.

Borrowing looks from other women is a peculiarly female hobby. You often overhear women in hairdress-

ers asking for a Helena Christiansen cut, but it's rare to see a man asking for a "Jeremy Paxman" or a "Bobby Charlton".

Makeovers in general tend to be a woman thing: you don't often come across men who say they're gonna wash that girl right outta their hair. You don't spot Stephen Dorrell going for a session of aromatherapy, or a spending spree in Bond Street boutiques, to lift his spirits and take his mind off BSE.

This may be because men tend to spend about four minutes on their daily grooming, which includes shaving and spraying cologne on yesterday's work shirt, and they can see that something like Fergie's makeover looks high-maintenance. Even if Fergie could spare seven

hours every morning to paint her face and suck her cheeks in, she would need an extra staff of four.

She would also need a thick enough skin to step out of her front door in daylight looking like a plumper version of a blanched Michael Jackson. Diana hasn't been half as ambitious in her redesign, and even she still can't do her own hair.

So what possessed Fergie? "She's had a lot of bad press recently," says Dr Skinner, "and you don't do something as dramatic as this by accident. She must have known what effect it would have, so maybe it's a signal that she is making a radical departure."

What, another one? Fergie seems to change her appearance as frequently as other people change their sheets, all the way from Sarah Shell-Suit to the latest version — Sarah Supermodel (though still not Sarah Sexy). Fergie has turned into a human pinball. Each time you think she is about to come to rest, she bucks off again like a bullet in a completely unpredictable direction. And she usually does her dramatic makeovers in public. She has indulged *Hello!* 15 times since January 1995 alone.

"It seems to me," says Dr Rowe, "she's never done anything to avoid the media. I wonder if she's one of these people who needs to be noticed? You experience your sense of existence in your relationship to other people. If you have a lot of

self-confidence, you don't need all the world to love you.

"But if you feel you don't have good, loving relationships with the people around you, and you feel you're very much on your own, and you don't feel good about yourself, and you feel that if you're not noticed you'll just disappear, then you'll do almost anything to get noticed. Fergie's been excluded from so much now. She even has to buy her own postage stamps. She's pretty isolated. The pictures are a way of saying, hey, I'm still here, take notice."

But where have all the freckles gone? "Women often have hang-ups about freckles. You get teased about them at school and there's nothing you can do about them.

Maybe Fergie is miserable and she's covered them with white make-up."

Dr Skinner adds that "most blemishes on the face — scars, pigmentation, spots — we don't like. But freckles are somehow accepted, especially on children, though children can be self-conscious about them. You can't control freckles, so as an adult you might want to cover them up. Neil Kinnock has freckles. But a white face? It doesn't really go with red hair."

Dr Rowe points out that Fergie has debts, "and we all do all sorts of things when we need the money". Dr Skinner scratches his head, as bemused as the rest of us by Fergie's antics: "She could have done it for a bet. Who knows?"

Asbestos link to lung disease and cancer BSE risk and children Side effects of plant extracts

The killer dust

the lungs and lines the inner wall of the chest cavity, thereby making a sac for the lungs to lie in.

Mesotheliomas grow quickly into the lungs and produce a sticky fluid which collects in the pleural cavity.

Treatment is symptomatic, for there is no cure. The amount of exposure to asbestos

which will later lead to a mesothelioma is variable, but the tumour is rare unless the exposure, even if not particularly heavy, lasts for at least six months.

The anxious doctor, always scurrying to answer one emergency call after another and therefore slightly out of breath, would probably have

inhaled fibres from the asbestos far more deeply than if he had sauntered through the underground passages and taken normal breaths.

Not all types of asbestos are harmful. But the hazards of exposure to the fibres have recently hit the headlines after Westminster City Council was accused of rehousing families in a tower block heavily contaminated by it. Now two elderly people, who developed mesothelioma after playing in the streets of Leeds with asbestos

sis, a fibrosis of the lungs similar to that which used to develop in coal miners before the Second World War.

The fibres of asbestos are inhaled deep into the lung tissue where they trigger the fibrosis, which reduces the lungs' capacity and their ability to absorb oxygen.

As a result of the lung changes, the patient becomes increasingly breathless and is able to manage less and less physical activity.

Eventually, in some cases, respiratory failure develops. The asbestos may also cause thickening of the pleura, which again can be associated with a fluid effusion.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

tos dust during their childhood, have been in dispute over the damages awarded to them.

A lesser trouble for patients who have been exposed to asbestos is asbestosis. This is a widespread pneumoconio-

sis. Patients who have been exposed to tobacco smoke as well as asbestos fibres are particularly liable to develop both chronic bronchitis — with a persistent cough and wheezing — and one of the cancers of the lung.

CJD and the age factor



THE scientists studying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and its links with BSE have concluded that on the balance of probability, though little is known about the mechanisms of the spread of such diseases, children are unlikely to be any more at risk of catching it from eating beef than are adults.

In the Kuru outbreak in New Guinea, in which another transmissible encephalopathy was found among cannibals, children suffered

more from it than did adults.

It is very possible that low resistance to the "prion" diseases is genetic and that most people will have a good resistance. It is difficult to be dogmatic about children's resistance to infection because many factors can influence it. Chronic infection can reduce it and in many children aged three to six months, when the maternal resistance acquired in utero is wearing off, a form of immuno deficiency occurs. But the development of the defence system is only delayed and is usually normal by the age of 18 months. The problems of resistance in children to infection are complex and still not entirely understood. But in most cases, resistance seems to grow as they become adults.

Herbal warning



A FAILING memory and fading libido are almost invariably associated with ageing. Doctors interested in herbal medicine might recommend that older patients take an extract of the leaves of *Ginkgo*

biloba, reputed to improve blood supply to the brain and sharpen the intellect, and the root of *Ginseng panax* to restore sexual prowess.

Ginseng is also reputed to boost stamina and concentration. But it can have side effects and interacts badly with some more orthodox medicines. It can compound the effect of antidepressants and tranquilisers, and should not be taken during any acute illness or by people with a psychiatric problem.

The side effects of ginseng are quite well-known. But few doctors would know that, for instance, hawthorn extract is a natural beta-blocker or that Pennyroyal, sometimes prescribed for indigestion, can be lethal.

The Pharmaceutical Press, which publishes *Martindale's*, the standard textbook on drugs, has introduced *Herbal Medicine* (£30), a 300-page companion volume on herbal medicine as a guide for doctors and other health workers, covering medical and culinary uses and interaction with other drugs.

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Jools Holland: funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal. The puzzling thing is how he got round to forming his relationship

Jools the obscure

A lighthouse next, Jools Holland thinks. "We'll build it just there," he says, gesturing out of the window past the porter's room, the ladies' lavatory and the platform benches of the cute little railway station he has constructed.

One can only marvel both at the accommodating nature of the south London planning authorities and the grandeur of Holland's vision. His toytown offices are called Helicon Mountain, after the Greek island where poets discovered their muse — a title which seems a touch flamboyant for a suburban hillock with panoramic gasworks views.

Mary Riddell meets Jools Holland, jazz genius and lighthouse builder, who used to find talking about his private life excruciating

Until you walk down to the end of the road, where the small, stone-clad semis are the smarter versions of the nearby homes where Holland grew up, impoverished and flitting from the debt collectors. Not that he makes a big deal about his past. "If you're going to be a musician, it's all right to come from a big city suburb and be expelled at 15. A bit like Eton and the Guards for old Tory Prime Ministers."

Holland's own finishing school was a stint with a band called Squeeze in the Seventies, followed by *The Tube*, in which he was cast as Paula Yates's screen husband and castigated for swearing on air. The point where he switched from B-list cult figure to serious musician is not absolutely clear, possibly because he so adroitly mastered the difficult art of making accessible the difficult and the obscure. His music programme, *Later*, is running on BBC2, he has just finished a stint with Jazz FM, and this week he will play five concerts with his 12-piece band, the Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. A fine jazz pianist, he is putting the last touches to the band's album, *Sex and Jazz and Rock and Roll*, which will be released shortly.

He is half-sitting, half-lying on a leather Chesterfield in his station-master's office, and it is fair to say that he does not instantly evoke great allure. His jumper is ancient, his frayed cords a violent shade of pumpkin. In addition, he coughs as he scratches as he talks, very fast and rather nervously. He knows that — excellent musician as he is — the great fascination is how he came to be so, and, at 38, he still glorifies what sounds the bleakest of childhoods as a romantic adventure.

His father drifting in and out of work, a trawl round different homes, oil lamps because there was no money to pay the electricity bill and a family split up when his parents' marriage fell apart. "I don't think it damaged me. I'd prefer to substitute the word abuse with experience. The worst thing about my parents was not the split but the reunion. "I was having a nice, frenzied time with no one to bother me when that happened. Not long after they got back together, I moved out." He was 15, with no qualifications but the ability, nurtured by an uncle in his grandma's front room, to play jazz piano. It would be enough — not

only to sustain him but the family to which he would become guardian. His brother Christopher plays with the band, his brother Richard runs his recording studio, and the office is managed by a middle-aged cousin. But Jools Holland was never groomed for cosy domesticity. His relationship with a hairdresser called Mary Leahy, with whom he had two children, fell apart on the day that he visited Burnburgh Castle to film for *The Tube*, met its 23-year-old mistress, Christabel, about the difficulties. It's just that it wasn't like it's always been reported. "We were at Bamfirth film festival, and Christabel was there because she was a friend of his wife, Lucy. She didn't live at the castle — never has done — and that story must have been quite annoying for the people who did. So, no, it wasn't like the chatelaine floating down in a nightie with a cup of tea for the film crew. "Afterwards we didn't meet again for ages. I've blanked exactly what happened, although I wrote it all down in a diary. Her husband, Lord Durham, had gone off with some woman, and Christabel was travelling through Newcastle when we met again. "And that time we stayed together. Yes, I think we will get married now. There you are, a scoop. It would be nice. A big party, a lovely party, maybe fancy dress. Do people do that for weddings? "Whatever the correct social code might be in the relationship between a member of the aristocracy and the south London boy made good, it was violently breached soon after their relationship began. Jools's father stole Christabel's jewellery, worth £35,000, and served 15 months in prison. Jools has always said that his father was temporarily soft in the head, but the cause was clearly more complex. Drink? Envy? "Well, maybe it was drink as well. It was a lot harder for him than for me. I wasn't the person who had to go to prison. I was just disappointed."

Discrimination that makes women sick

Sue Corrigan on the health price high-achievers may pay

CAN SEXISM make women sick? According to two American psychologists it can and, for millennia, it has. Professors Brett Silverstein and Deborah Perlick, psychologists at two New York universities, say they have identified a syndrome that has afflicted talented and ambitious women at least since the days of the ancient Greeks. The symptoms of what they have christened *Anxious Somatic Depression Syndrome* include eating disorders, depression, anxiety, severe headaches, insomnia and menstrual disturbances.

In a contentious new book, *The Cost of Competence*, to be published in the UK shortly, Silverstein and Perlick argue that these symptoms are "all components of a single disorder that for centuries has plagued women who have been brought up in gender-biased societies".

Large numbers of smart, ambitious women, they say, have paid with their health and peace of mind for wanting to achieve in areas traditionally reserved for males.

Their hypothesis is greeted with some scepticism by British psychologists and psychiatrists. "This is a narrowly feminist perspective," says Dr Janet Treasure, consultant psychiatrist at Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital's Eating Disorders Unit in south London. "It is only one way of looking at the issues involved and is far from being proved."

The two American psychologists insist, however, that healthcare experts are failing to recognise a persistent pattern of illness. Victims of their newly-named syndrome are "women who define themselves nontraditionally" — females who reject confinement within the domestic sphere traditionally reserved for women. Historical evidence and

modern research alike point, they say, to psychological problems developing among bright women whose fathers value their intelligence highly during their girlhoods but whose mothers are discouraging.

"We believe that girls treated in this way in childhood suffer from later problems because they develop childhood aspirations and self-concepts built around abilities which go beyond the feminine ideal." Because they define themselves in ways not considered appropriate for females, they are never fully accepted."

Clear examples from the past, they say, include Sigmund Freud's daughter Anna, Karl Marx's Elcano, Charles Darwin's Henrietta and Albert Einstein's step-daughter Margot, who all

suffered from chronic and mysterious illnesses, with depression, headaches and insomnia.

The authors measured the incidence among college students of purging — using laxatives, diuretics or self-induced vomiting to control weight. Among women who reported that in childhood they placed much more importance on their own academic achievement than on their household skills, and that their fathers considered their mothers unintelligent, more than a third reported purging.

Roughly one in five of the students said either that they felt their mothers had been very limited by being female, or that they felt guilty over having better lives than their mothers, or that they minimised their own accomplishments so that their mothers would not feel bad about themselves. Women who reported any one of these problems were about 20 times as likely to list symptoms of disordered eating and depressed mood as those who did not.

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Any mention of his partner Christabel reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching

Lady Durham, and fell instantly in love. Or so the story goes. It looks for a while as if this version will stand, because any mention of Christabel, now his partner of almost a decade, reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching. Does she, you wonder, work in addition to looking after the children — her son, Fred, 11, their five-year-old daughter, Mabel, and Jools's children, George and Rosie, 11 and ten, who visit at weekends? "Well yes, I think she does. She works here sometimes, arranging pictures."

The most puzzling thing is how Jools — funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal — actually got round to forming his relationship, let alone coping with the bitter rifts which it must have provoked.

"Look, I'm not shy," he says suddenly. "You have to be a bit of a show-off to succeed in music. And yes, you're right

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All good exams come in threes

The Dearing reforms echo 1944, but they will be none the worse for that, says Paul Barker

The rise of the meritocracy continues. Sir Ron Dearing's nosebagful of new proposals for school exams confirms it. Sift through the chaff of education-speak (why do the people who oversee teachers always use such robotic language?), and you will see that essentially Sir Ron is continuing the trend away from the homogenised, pasteurised school.

This shift began when it became clear that in many places, especially in cities, the comprehensive school and mixed-ability classes would never deliver the promised goods, much less (as egalitarians hoped) the Promised Land. Instead of a single, imposed pattern, the ideal is now for the school to be a kaleidoscope — a multitude of patterns.

A kaleidoscope has three sides. So did the great watershed Education Act of 1944. It foresaw a grand tripartite system of free grammar schools, technical schools and, for the rest, secondary modern schools. Like all reforms in British schools since the late Victorians made elementary education compulsory, the Act avowedly aimed at catching up with the Germans.

Sir Ron makes the same comparison (and tosses in the Japanese for good measure). But the vision was never achieved. Few technical schools were created. Eventually, the grammar school cream was stirred into the secondary modern whey. And that, for the time being, was that.

But Sir Ron is reinventing, if not the wheel, then at least the kaleidoscope. On the one hand, there will be special, tougher, A levels — what the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, calls "the gold standard". The belief that some (such as English) have become easier to pass must be rooted out. On the other hand, there will be new "applied" A levels in such subjects as tourism or catering (a tarted-up version of what until now have been called Advanced GNVQs). These are the alternative goals for pupils who want to stay on until 17 or 18, and who should, in the national interest, be encouraged to do so.

At present, however, there are pupils who find it frustrating to be obliged even to stay on to the legal leaving age of 16. They are sometimes, ludicrously, put in for GCSE exams, with no hope of getting better than the dimmest grades. They may even hang around after that, for lack of alternative ambition. (The present bob-a-nob school funding system tempts heads to cling on to pupils. There's cash in it.) But one fifth of pupils don't pass a GCSE, at any grade, in the crucial subjects of English and maths.

This is the third side of Sir Ron's kaleidoscope. These pupils will be allowed to become semi-detached, spending less time in school and more on work training — to their teachers' and fellow-pupils'

relief, as well as their own. History never quite repeats itself. Far more children were consigned to secondary modern schools than will now go off down this half-work, half-school channel. It shows how our society has changed, partly through the successes of teachers (sometimes against the odds), and partly because of the new pattern of jobs.

The middle ranges of society have swelled and, mostly, prospered. Their emblematic home is much-mocked Milton Keynes: as good a symbol as one could find of the white-collar way that most people live now. I can imagine applied A levels in tourism being in great demand here.

But the unskilled are shrinking into what is often called the underclass. They are clustered in certain city districts (Hackney, Newham) or desolate towns (Oldham, Hartlepool). It will be a generation before we know whether Sir Ron's third way has helped them, or hindered them still more.

Meanwhile, the meritocrats will rise and rise, clutching their hard-won gold-standard diplomas. In a deal specifically squared with Labour, Sir Ron will look next at the universities, where a similar tripartite

Meritocrats will rise, clutching their diplomas

division is already emerging: the half-dozen world-class institutions, the two dozen top-of-the-range, and the also-rans.

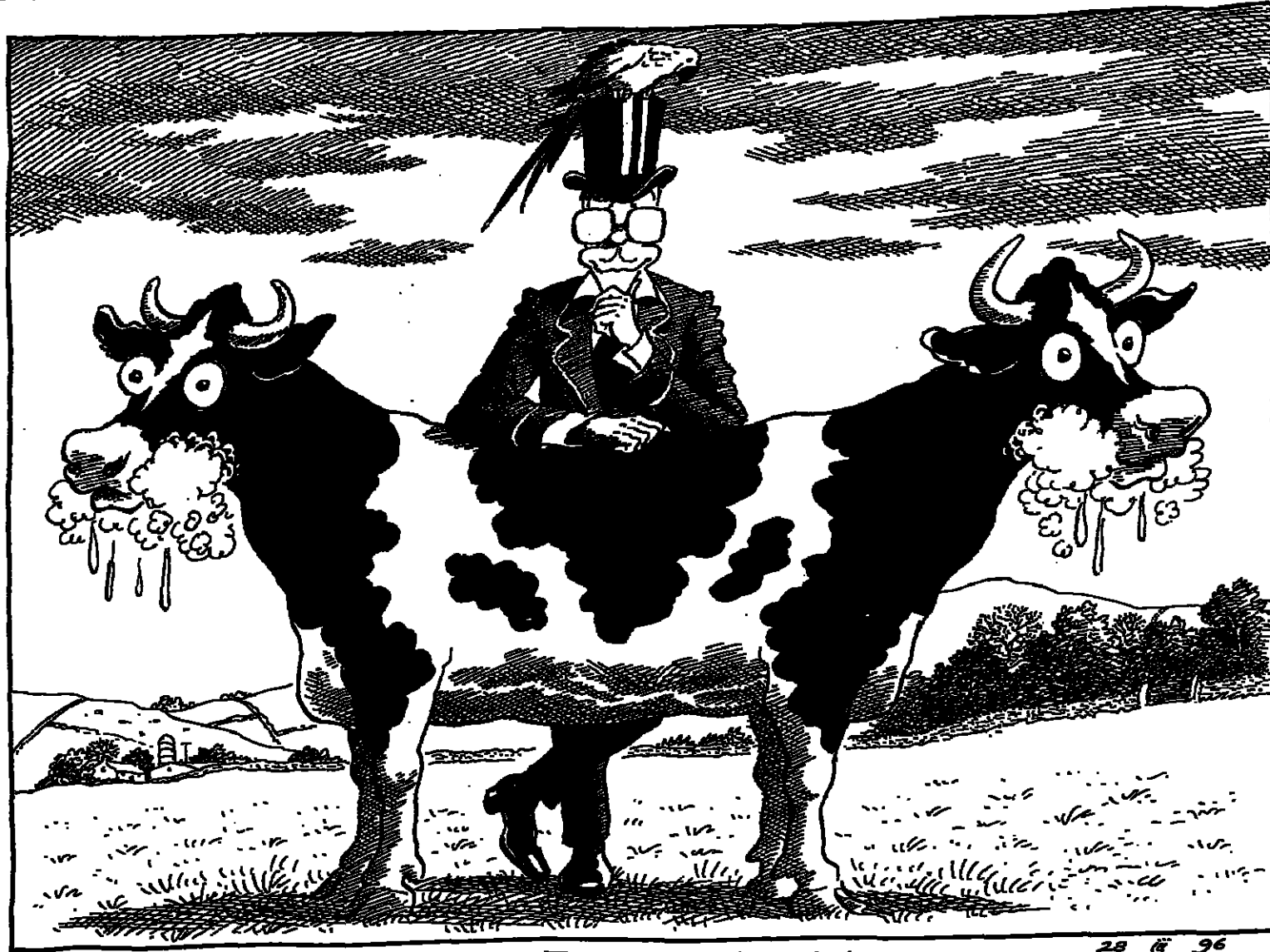
All of this is part of a growing cross-party consensus on education. Remember that the 1960s orthodoxy was first questioned by the last Labour Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan. Like John Major he is not a graduate, and perhaps for that reason he knows the value of meritocratic achievements.

The most notorious remarks in our education history (public school and Oxford) were uttered by Anthony Crosland, the minister who launched the now-abandoned homogenisation. They are reported in his wife's memoir: "If it's the last thing I do, I'm going to destroy every grammar school in England," he said. "And Wales. And Northern Ireland." Why not Scotland? I asked out of pure curiosity. "Because their schools come under the Secretary of State for Scotland." He began to laugh at his inability to destroy their grammar schools.

The present Prime Minister may not get the swathe of grammar schools revivals he called for in a speech last week, but these new proposals will eventually deliver something very close.

Sir Ron is the man trusted, by all parties, to carry the torch of progress. In old arithmetic books, one of the first lessons was the Rule of Three. In Latin classes, the first text pupils read told them that Julius Caesar divided Gaul into three parts. It is, traditionally, a magic number. Let's hope it casts the spell.

The author is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.



DR. IDOLITIE Peter Brooker

Not just bad luck

The Government failed to get a grip on BSE and has only itself to blame

I have received an interesting letter from Dr Anthony Cullen, an agricultural microbiologist with veterinary experience. He confirms some points I made about BSE on Monday, and adds others. He agrees that it is an old, but rare, disease in cattle, and recalls treating a cow with "typical signs of BSE" in 1962. He agrees that BSE is more likely to be a cow rather than a sheep prion disease, and points out that only one experiment, in the United States in 1979, has succeeded in infecting cows with scrapie by direct injection of sheep brain material.

In sheep, a susceptibility gene determines the infection by scrapie. In other animals, then human beings would only be infected with BSE if they had a genetic susceptibility, in addition to coming into contact with the organism. That would help to account for so large a cow epidemic of BSE producing so few human cases. Dr Cullen adds an interesting comment on the epidemic of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result of cannibalism in New Guinea. "The women took the brain tissue of the dead person and pushed it into a bamboo tube before it was cooked. It was believed that it was the act of stuffing these tubes which led to spicules of bamboo inoculating the women with infected material into the bloodstream through minute cuts to thumbs or fingers. It seems likely, on general principles, that a small dose would be infective if inoculated, but a large dose would be required by mouth. The cases [of BSE] in people have often been in meat-handlers."

Dr Cullen adds modestly that he is not an expert in BSE or scrapie. Nonetheless, his experience confirms that BSE is almost certainly a long-standing disease in cattle, which does not seem to have caused identifiable trouble to human beings in the past. His reference to the susceptibility gene — which could have been widely transmitted in cows by a single bull through AI — and his suggestion of the possible significance of injection, all strengthen the view that any human epidemic caused by BSE is likely to remain a limited one.

But BSE has become a matter of panic, rather than of science. It is also becoming increasingly important as cause there is a panic, damaging to Britain's relations with Europe, dangerous to the future of the Government. Many people are now genuine-

ly frightened of eating beef: even those who regard the risk as negligible are put off by the fact that there is a risk at all. Parents are alarmed by the risk to their children. The hamburger, whether made of British or any other beef, has become an object of almost superstitious horror. It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob from British beef than one is to win the Lottery. That is not much of an argument to use to the British public, 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning. If one

best available advice, was that there was very little risk of BSE infecting human beings. Ministers, particularly John Gummer at agriculture and Kenneth Clarke at health, interpreted that as "no risk", though that was neither an honest nor a prudent interpretation of the scientific evidence, and has since been contradicted by further evidence.

The Government failed for nearly ten years to get a grip either on the epidemic itself or on the safety measures in the abattoirs. If there had been comprehensive action after 1986 or 1989, the epidemic could probably have been contained at a much lower level, and British beef might now be as safe as some ministers say it is. This lack of grip is only too evident. The Minister of Agriculture thinks slaughtering is necessary; the Secretary of State for Health thinks it is not justified on the scientific evidence. The Treasury does not want to pay for it. The Prime Minister thinks it should go ahead. One has to go back almost as far as the Hoare-Laval Pact, 60 years ago, to find a similar spectacle of a Government which had so lost control of events.

This Government has also completely lost the confidence of the farming community and of most people in the countryside. The farmers were involved in this catastrophe by unpublicised changes in the practices of feed merchants and in the relevant government regulations. Nearly half the cattle farms, and more than half of the specialist beef producers, have still never had a case of BSE. Even those who have suffered from BSE are involved in a catastrophe not of their own making — they never decided to feed cow meat to cows, and were almost all unaware that this was what they were doing. Those farmers who have had no cases, whose herds are BSE-free, are producing wholly safe beef which is regarded by their customers as wholly suspect. Both groups find their survival threatened, and blame it on the weakness of ministers and on lack of frankness in the past.

No doubt the Government is unlucky. It started the year hoping for a political recovery. As soon as ministers thought they had got over Scott, by a one vote victory, they found themselves faced with "mad cow" disease. Who would have expected that? But politicians make their own luck. When governments fail to get on top of events, events will always get on top of them.

William Rees-Mogg

any European observer who imagines that this would be easier for Tony Blair and the Labour Party does not understand the present mood of the British public. We feel that we have been getting the wrong end of the European deal; we feel that British interests are always subordinate to those of the Franco-German alliance. Tony Blair cannot afford to fight the next general election as the Kohl-Chirac candidate. As with the beef panic, the psychology of the British reaction to Europe has become a political reality in its own right. The Government's handling of the BSE epidemic raises the same issues as the Scott report. That left an unforgettable picture of a Government which had lost its administrative grip. One could even feel sorry for ministers, who seemed to be as bewildered by the system they had to operate as anyone outside might be. There does not seem to have been much to choose between their handling of BSE and that of arms to Iraq — except that the public cares much more about BSE. The same doubts exist about the honesty of a series of official statements. After 1989, the scientific position, on the

issues as majority voting when the British believe that they will always be ruthlessly outvoted?

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Labour day

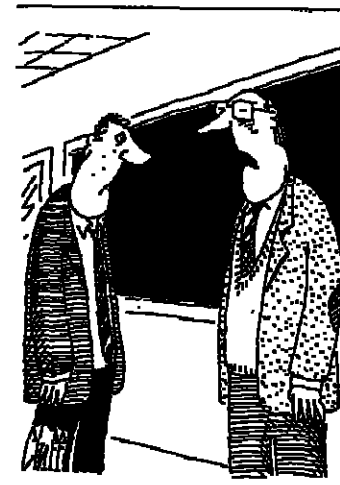
NEW YORK is to unbutton its embonpoint and embrace Tony Blair. The Labour leader, who yesterday announced that every cloth-cap member of his party will be able to vote on its manifesto, is to be guest of honour at a £750-a-head lunch next month organised by the British American Chamber of Commerce. He will be given the sort of treatment that would have Donald Trump salivating over his foulard tie.

The seven-courser at the Empire State Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel is uncharted water for Labour. Previous speakers at the chamber's big events include Baroness Thatcher and John Major but Blair is the first Opposition leader, let alone Labour politician, to speak to the gathering in living memory.

Whenever Neil Kinnock crossed the Atlantic in the 1980s, he was kept waiting by the American big guns, or passed on to low-ranking officials. But before his big day in New York, Blair will be holding summit-style talks with President Clinton and Vice President Gore, men of his own age with whom he is politically sympathetic. To show he is not all left-sided, however, he

will also be meeting Nixon's Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. Tables for ten are being hawked round the Big Apple at £7,500 each. Champagne socialists may be disappointed that the cash isn't going to new Labour coffers — but, my dears, what an honour for Tony.

Literary news: Bertelsmann, the publishing giant from the Ruhr Valley, has written to Thomas



"Sorry Peckitt, John Major studies only goes up to O level"

Hardy and, unable to find his address, sent its missive to his local library in Dorchester. "Dear Thomas Hardy," says the letter, "what do you think about the use of computers in libraries?" County librarian Carleton Earl is unimpressed: "Geography's all right, but they should jolly well mull up on their history."

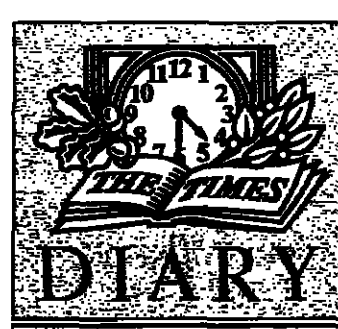
Yorkie bar

YET MORE bovine information from Harriet. My uncle Roddy's confused moor. Those two pillars of Britishness, the clergy and farmers, have succumbed to the beef madness.

Beef is off at Bishopthorpe, the home of Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, and a fixture on the northern meat circuit. Much missed already are Hope's homemade cottage pies — guaranteed to make even the sturdiest Mothers' Union member tremble — and the pastry pies made by a fiendishly talented palace chef.

Meanwhile, in a survey in *Farming News*, it is reported that while 97 per cent of farmers vow to have roast beef for Sunday lunch, 65 per cent feebly confessed to having been put off their offal.

Of particular interest is a gold watch in the sale, given to Miss Shrimpton, by the actor Terence



Stamp. Across the face is written "Shrimpton" while the back is engraved: "With love Terry". Shrimpton writes tersely of the watch in her autobiography: "I gave that away in later years. I didn't need reminding of my name."

Bath oils

THE MARQUESS of Bath and his wifelet were scrutinising Gray Jolliffe's saucy cartoons with an intensity that only a connoisseur of erotic art could muster on Tuesday night at an exhibition in the Grosvenor House hotel. He explained he was not inclined to buy any of the works: "I prefer to paint my own."

Priceless

LISTEN for the dull clank of maddison on chest at Phillips Auctioneers next month as *Romeos* of a certain age bid for relics from the love lives of Brigitte Bardot, Jean Shrimpton and Jean Simmons.

The lots include lipstick holders, watches and rings given to the three by their one-time lovers. The women clearly ignored the words of Zsa Zsa Gabor, no slouch in these matters: "Give back the ring, if you must dahling," she advised, "but keep the diamond."

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The pigtailed aristocrat's latest project is a series of heads of his ancestors around a spiral staircase at Longleat. "I have already completed a series of heads of my loved ones," he says, "now I am doing the crowned heads."

Palace pies

THE BINDIS and bhajis which I revealed are ferried regularly from Kuldeep Makhni's international restaurant in Mayfair to Buckingham Palace are not the only take-away meals enjoyed by members



Princess Margaret take-away

of the Royal Family. A restaurant in Kensington which was frequented by Princess Margaret in the 1960s — and named Maggie Jones at the time of her marriage to Antony Armstrong-Jones — supplies Kensington Palace with pies.

"The ladies-in-waiting come down with their bowls and the kitchen makes something up for them," says a regular. "They love the pies — fisherman's and steak and kidney. Can't get enough of them."

P.H.S

Labour bound by ballot

Peter Riddell on Blair's bid to outflank revolt

Tony Blair's decision to ballot Labour Party members this autumn on a draft of its manifesto is his most important initiative since the rewriting of Clause Four. It is intended not only to demonstrate the substance of new Labour, but also to improve the prospects for success in office.

Mr Blair is haunted by the failure of the last two Labour Governments. He believes they foundered in part because they lost the support of party activists. There was a conflict between the policies of the party at an election and subsequent constraints which leaders faced in office. This produced constant tension between the party and government, as revealed in the diaries and memoirs of the 1960s and 1970s.

The antics of the party conference and of the national executive, including left-wing ministers such as Tony Benn, in rejecting government policies were a constant irritation to Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. This fostered a myth of betrayal, and fuelled a dramatic swing to the left after the party lost office in 1970 and 1979. At the party conference in the autumn of 1979, MPs and former ministers were booed by delegates, and treated as traitors. They were accused of abandoning the policies of the party. The only way the leadership could assert authority was by relying on trade union bloc votes to counteract constituency activists.

Mr Blair is trying to avoid these traps by caution about promises and by binding in the party, and also Labour MPs, from the start. The most distinctive feature of Mr Blair's leadership has been his desire to go over the heads of party activists — as well as union leaders — to the wider membership. One member, one vote in party decisions has worked strongly in his favour, not least because the membership has risen by nearly a half to 365,000 over the past two years, and many of these new members are keen Blairites.

Not only did Mr Blair receive strong support from individual party members when he was elected leader in July 1994, but he also won the 85 per cent backing of members over the rewriting of Clause Four last April. This was despite early opposition from some left-wing activists and votes against change by the two largest unions.

The party constitution was amended last October to allow for membership ballots on major policy and other questions. The party conference, where the unions still have 50 per cent of the votes, remains sovereign, but in practice a mass ballot will have greater legitimacy. A series of policy documents appearing over a few months will be brought together in an early version of the manifesto in June, before being debated at the party conference in October and then going to a ballot shortly afterwards.

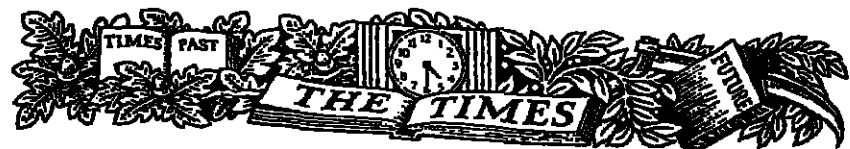
Mr Blair is adamant that this will be a tight document — no "shopping list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. Instead, there are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be different from the Tories, such as the individual learning accounts for training being published later today. Gordon Brown says detailed proposals on tax will not come until the full election manifesto, in part because of the probability of further tax cuts in November.

John's document will avoid the detailed and ultimately counterproductive pledges on tax, child benefits and pensions which John Smith made before the 1992 election. The statement is likely to be sparse — making a virtue of its absence of wish-lists and its stress on hard choices, with resources being shifted within existing budgets. The risk is that it will be bland. Following the 1987 and 1992 defeats, Labour leaders are obsessed with not saying anything which allows the Tories to accuse them of favouring higher public spending and taxes.

The process matters as much as the substance. As Mr Blair said, the ballot "will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government". The unstated corollary is that activists should complain later about the programme, and if, or rather when, ministers have to take tough economic decisions in office. Mr Blair wants to ensure that not only are no extravagant promises made but that the party is explicitly committed to what is promised.

The move may be bold, but it should not be risky. Members are being offered a straight yes or no: the main doubt is over the level of turnout. But merely by launching the exercise, Mr Blair has given the leadership and the party a focus and something to do over the long pre-election period. The prize is that Labour could take office in a year or so on a realistic programme which the party has endorsed. He wants to show that Blairism is backed by the party. But he will not confuse a desire to win with unconditional support. Mr Blair could still face plenty of rumblings and party rows if he wins power. New Labour may be in control, but old Labour is not dead yet.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "OUR" and other fragments.



ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

The A level should not be debased

Sir Ron Dearing certainly deserves full marks for effort. His 150-page report on the future of education for those aged between 16 and 19 makes nearly 200 recommendations. Sir Ron hopes his suggestions will simplify the structure of qualifications for school-leavers, increase the numbers who have something to show for their studies, broaden the range of important skills acquired and improve standards overall. It is an ambitious programme, and several of his proposals are worthwhile. But, far from strengthening the A level, the "gold standard" of the education system, there are reasons to fear that Sir Ron's suggestions may leave it subtly debased.

The area most immediately in need of improvement is technical and vocational education. The system of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and NVQs does not enjoy parity of esteem with A-levels. The vocational qualifications are widely perceived to be less rigorously policed. Nevertheless, the number of pupils who do not complete the course is still higher than among those attempting A levels.

Sir Ron, rightly, argues GNVQs would command greater respect if external assessment were used more widely. Outside verification that standards have been reached will enhance the credibility of the qualification. Other recommendations intended to increase the status of GNVQs are more questionable. Bringing together the two regulatory bodies, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, as well as constructing the initial syllabuses to allow pupils to switch at an early stage between A level and GNVQ in similar fields appears efficient. Some pupils may gain from the flexibility but others could suffer from a levelling down of standards between technical and academic courses, over time.

The proposal to rename the GNVQ the "applied A level" is also of dubious virtue. Calling polytechnics universities has not improved the quality of their education. GNVQs will command respect by guar-

anteeing over time a nationally agreed level of expertise in a specific field. They should seek to command respect in their own right, not by riding on the reputation of another examination.

The A level itself is under threat in two small, but significant, ways. The first is Sir Ron's suggested new umbrella qualification, the "National Advanced Diploma". This is designed to ensure school-leavers study across a broader spectrum but, in doing so, runs counter to the spirit of specialisation that makes the A level system so attractively rigorous. Moreover, the Diploma treats technical and academic qualifications in such a way as to potentially lessen the distinction between the two. The Diploma is also designed to entrench "key skills" in "number" and "literacy". Sir Ron's aim is admirable. But if pupils cannot count and communicate by the time they are 16 a new piece of paper is unlikely to help.

The other erosion of excellence is the ascendancy of the "modular" approach to A levels. Sir Ron wisely notes that the modules are popular with A level students because they allow sections of the course to be sat, and re-sat, in such a way as to bump up marks overall. Fewer and fewer pupils earn the marks to pass their A levels at the final exam. A level grades have been rising slowly even though a far larger proportion of the school population now take A levels, arousing strong suspicion that with, among other things, the growth of modular teaching, the qualification is easier to acquire.

Sir Ron is alive to the weakness of the modular system but that does not stop him arguing for an eventual unified approach where half the marks for the A level come from modules, half from the final exam. Modular teaching is the enemy of excellence and a hidden danger in an ever-more competitive world. Sir Ron should not be giving it any encouragement. The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge, sophisticated skills and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics.

PAIN FOR GAIN

Cruelty, charity and the RSPCA

Britain's charities are the mirrors which reflect our concerns as a society. From these institutions — which span the range from the educational and the religious to the recreational and the eccentric — one learns as much about the moral inclinations of Britons as one does from Parliament, from the English language and from the country's press. No charity has been more emblematic of these concerns than the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

Yet the RSPCA, today, is a body which appears to have lost a little of its direction. The country's largest charity — it has over 200 branches, each registered separately with the Charity Commission — was conceived originally to address everyday acts of cruelty and harm to animals. Painfully tethered dogs, maltreated cats, fox cubs, badgers and swans that swallow fishing tackle were the familiar subjects of its campaigns. As a nation, Britons abhor wanton cruelty to animals and the RSPCA, by popular support, was the body which best endeavoured to protect animals from unthinking inhumanity.

The animal charity, however, has veered some distance away from its original, unimpeachable trajectory. The Charity Commissioners, who oversee the activities of institutions such as the RSPCA, have now alerted the animal body to a potentially costly risk: stop campaigning against those activities which are "beneficial to the community" or you will endanger your

charitable status. The commissioners have in mind, specifically, the RSPCA's campaign against animal vivisection, commonly conducted by the medical community in pursuit of their scientific ends.

The commissioners are right, and their directive must not be misunderstood. Under a complex mixture of statute and common law, charities are organisations which enjoy tax exemptions by particular virtue of their activities: these must be for the public benefit, and can include animal welfare. But the courts have refused consistently to recognise political objects as "charitable", and this must include a campaign to put a stop to vivisection. Such experiments are entirely lawful, and a campaign to procure a change in the law is an inherently political campaign.

The RSPCA is not the first major charity to fall foul of the commissioners in this way. Oxfam was given warning often over its campaigns to end apartheid in South Africa, and over pamphlets urging the cancellation of Third World debt. The point is not that such campaigns — whether against apartheid or animal vivisection — are inherently undesirable; in fact, both, in their respective times, have enjoyed considerable popular appeal in this country. The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax. There is no reason why it should, if it exceeds the bounds allowed to it by law.

OUR FRETFUL RELATIONS

A good judgement from the Strasbourg court

At a time when decisions taken by pan-European institutions are not popular with everyone in Britain, let us pause to cheer a commonsense judgment issued yesterday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. British judges had previously insisted that a journalist, William Goodwin, reveal the name of a source who had been assured anonymity; they had fined the reporter when he refused. The ECHR rejected these decisions — and rightly so.

Mr Goodwin has emerged victorious from a long and wearisome struggle. Back in 1989 and only a few months out of university in his first job on *The Engineer*, he received a leak of some internal figures from inside a company which was in the course of raising fresh capital. Alerted to Mr Goodwin's knowledge before anything was printed, the company won an injunction to suppress any mention of its name, let alone its financial plans. Mr Goodwin was then pressed to reveal his source. He consistently refused, lost cases in the High Court and House of Lords and was fined £5,000.

As similar cases have revealed, British judges think they smell humbug when they are faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source. In the House of Lords, Lord Bridge wondered out loud at Mr Goodwin's "extraordinary attitude that he was entitled to set the law at naught. He puts his duty to his profession above his duty to obey the law."

To no avail Mr Goodwin's lawyers pointed out that their client had no problem with the law in general but only with the courts' request for a name which his word to his source prevented him revealing. However the courts maintained that the company's access to justice overrode Mr Goodwin's promise.

Contrast Lord Bridge's vain pronouncements with yesterday's judgment. The judges of Strasbourg point out that two competing public interests, freedom of expression and justice, must be seen in proportion. Only exceptional difficulties and dangers — prevention of crime or risk to life and limb — should justify a demand for a journalist to break his word. The fine imposed on Mr Goodwin was not "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of the company's rights under English law.

The European Court of Human Rights lost its own sense of proportion at the end of its judgment. Journalists should be entitled to compensation, the judges opined, for the "mental anguish and anxiety of being threatened with imprisonment for obeying their conscience and their ethical duties." Mr Goodwin had not sought compensation for his mental anguish since he quite rightly considers this kind of legal fight a natural and occupational hazard of journalism. Relations between the press and authorities are essentially fretful and should remain able to be so.

Some lessons and warnings from Britain's BSE disaster

From Professor Harold Stern

Sir, The recent pronouncements of ministers on the safety of British beef provide a prime example of dangerous, authoritative conclusions that consistently ignore basic facts. In particular, statements that the hazard of BSE resides only in the brain and spinal cord and other offal and that "quality" beef, such as steaks and ribs, is safe could well be erroneous. Muscle is riddled with nerve fibres in communication with the central nervous system and along which the infecting agent could travel.

The fact that it is only in the brain and spinal cord and some other offal that the agent of BSE can be detected by animal inoculation in the laboratory is nothing but an indication of the insensitivity of the techniques currently available to us.

Moreover, to ask a committee to consider whether children are more susceptible to the disease is ridiculous. Is it all right to institute measures to protect children but to continue to expose young adults to the infection? There is no information available on the infecting dose for humans, but this may not be large, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) has been effectively transmitted by corneal transplants taken from patients without clinical evidence of the disease.

The occurrence of CJD in 10 young adults in one country, some undoubtedly exposed to infected cattle, within a relatively short period of time (report and leading article, March 21) is unique in medical literature. No reputable medical scientist can ignore this fact, and extreme caution should therefore be exercised when discussing the safety of beef.

This must be the case when dealing with a clinically dreadful disease, which is, as far as we know, invariably fatal and for which there is no treatment.

Only complete eradication of the cattle population can remedy the problem. The number of cases of BSE may now be diminishing but we cannot be certain that the infection will not eventually stabilise in herds, with

increasing length of the incubation period and increasing numbers of animals apparently healthy but infected.

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD STERN
(Professor Emeritus of Virology,
University of London),
16 Hill Rise,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11,
March 27.

From Mr Henry Edmunds

Sir, In 1988 the Ministry of Agriculture initiated a scrapie monitoring scheme for sheep. I was one of the original participants in this and have supported it subsequently. A proportion of my sheep are culled each year and their brains examined for the presence of scrapie. In the event of being able to demonstrate two years free of the disease the flock then achieves export status.

This scheme would, in my view, be equally applicable to cattle. Each herd should be tested in this way and only those achieving a BSE-free status allowed to market their stock through the normal channels. In this way all herds carrying the disease would be identified.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY EDMUNDS,
The Cholderton Estate,
The Estate Office,
Cholderton, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
March 26.

From Mr Andrew Smyth

Sir, As a manufacturer, my company exists in a fiercely competitive environment relying on our own efforts for its success or failure. We would not expect to be shown much consideration if we made products which were dangerous to our customers.

Agriculture, by contrast, is a business whose success is further subsidised by taxpayers. Not content with this, when selling products which might kill their customers, it seems that farmers, to use the word in today's extraordinary letter from Mr Caspar Bush, "require" compensation for their mistakes.

What hope is there for any responsibility in an industry which is apparently so completely cocooned from the effects of its own mistakes?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SMYTH,
15 Camden Square, NW1,
March 26.

From Professor Sam Ahmedzi

Sir, On your letters page (March 25) Mr Derek Nimmo asks whether the Beefsteak Club should change its name to the Lamb Chop Club and the chief proprietor of a restaurant reports that 47 per cent of his diners are still eating beef.

Oh dear, it really is spreading.

Yours faithfully,
SAM AHMEDZI,
23a Southbourne Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
March 25.

From Mr Richard Smith

Sir, Profit. Public health scare. Market collapse. Compensation. Profit.

Not exactly an agricultural revolution, just more of the same old tricks. The only difference with this method of subsidy farming is that first you put the consumers' health at risk and then you get the consumer to pay to have the danger removed.

Have we all gone soft in the head?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. SMYTH,
Waney Hill,
Theydon Road, Epping, Essex,
March 26.

From Mr B. R. Yates

Sir, Your headline (March 27) announces, "Cabinet may accept call for slaughter". At last, a useful suggestion, but the question remains whether we should slaughter the whole Cabinet or just those members who have reached the end of their useful working lives.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. YATES,
Aston House,
Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Claims to the fame of Robin Hood

From Mr Brian Alderson

Sir, Yorkshire must reclaim its own. Nottingham's adoption of Robin Hood has always been an opportunistic publicity stunt, and as you suggest in your leader (March 26), the outlaw is essentially a Yorkshireman. Indeed, the most precise map reference for him in the earliest known ballad has him raiding traffic on the A1, not far from Wentbridge.

There seems to be a reluctance to appreciate this, even in his home county, however. The magnificent Robin Hood exhibition organised last year at the Olenburg Book Festival (for whose 300-page catalogue I supplied a brief foreword) is all set to travel to Warsaw, Zurich, Aarhus, Groningen, Berlin, and possibly New York... but old York has rejected it.

A proposal for it to be staged in the Guild Hall later this year collapsed, apparently because the city's Leisure Services were unable to beg, borrow or ambush any cases for the display.

Yours etc,
BRIAN ALDERSON,
28 Victoria Road,
Richmond, North Yorkshire,
March 26.

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, It was not the Victorians, as Andrew Pierce suggests (report, March 26), who "turned Robin Hood into the Earl of Huntingdon, to make him a more respectable hero".

In the 1880s the great Harvard ballad scholar, Francis J. Child, wrote in his *English and Scottish Popular Ballads*: "Anthony Munday, towards the end of the sixteenth century, made a play... in which Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, being outlawed, takes refuge in Sherwood, with his chaste love Matilda... and changes his name to Robin Hood, hers to Maid Marian" (headnote to ballad 117 in volume III).

Child adds in a footnote that the first mention of Robin's noble extraction seems to be in Grafton's Chronicle of 1569. I have no doubt that it was a popular tradition long before that.

May not the name Robin Hood be simply a corruption of "robber in the wood"? Presumably every wooded area in the country will have had one of these. Yorkshire, as your third leader points out, has a vast Robin Hood folklore of its own. Child deals extensively in another of his headnotes with the particular claims of Barmesdale as a rival to Sherwood as the Merry Men's HQ.

Nottingham is indeed fortunate in having won the battle for the noble outlaw's patronage in the popular mind and would surely be crazy to give it up.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridge,
March 26.

Wingate's reputation

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir, I am much saddened by the news (report and pictures, March 20) that Orde Wingate's son has been forced to sell his father's medals and papers. I am also concerned by the remarks in your report, "whose behind-the-scenes operations turned the tide of the Second World War in Burma", and "[he] single-handedly turned the tide of war in Burma."

I took part in the second Chindit operation in 1944 and have written a book on the subject. I have always had a high regard for Orde Wingate, only wishing that he was less odd, but I believe that claims as sweeping as these can only further alienate those who continue to be bitterly opposed to him.

In my judgment, Orde Wingate had brilliant ideas and these, particularly the greatly extended scope for air supply, did much to assist in the reconquest of Burma. He also did much to persuade the British that the Japanese were not invincible in the jungle.

Additionally, he gave the Japanese the false idea that they could operate effectively over country in which his own columns had operated in 1943.

But the tide turned when the regular elements of the 14th Army, led superbly by General Slim, met the Japanese attack of 1944 head-on and refused to yield. The Chindits inconvenienced the Japanese considerably, and this their commanders have acknowledged, but we would be wise not to spoil the case of a most remarkable man by attributing to him more than the events warrant.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RHODES JAMES,
15 Almoners Avenue, Cambridge,
March 20.

Test for chairpersons

From Mr A. P. Walter

Sir, I am indebted to the researchers from the Centre for Disease Control Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, who concluded that a person who has had an excess of wine "would be unable to operate anything more than a deck-chair" (Body and Mind, March 21). Obviously the reason I have experienced so many problems in erecting these confounded contraptions over the past 40 years is that I have always been sober at the time.

Yours etc,
A. P. WALTER,
62 Rib Vale, Bengoe, Hertford,
March 21.

N Ireland Tories

From Dr Esmond Birnie

Sir, The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Ireland have both rightly stressed the importance of all genuinely democratic parties participating in the forthcoming Forum elections in Northern Ireland. I therefore find it bizarre that Conservative Central Office should apparently judge it inappropriate for the Conservative Party itself to contest these elections.

It would seem that the 45,000 Conservative voters in Northern Ireland in the 1992 general election are now to be disenfranchised. Perhaps the party leadership will tell us which other party we should vote for?

The December 1993 Downing Street declaration proclaimed that our Government has "... no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland". Should we now conclude that the Conservative Party has no "electoral interest" in the province? If this were true then it would be a sad position for both the party and the people of Northern Ireland.

Perhaps the declaration we should draw from this and Dr Brian Mahoney's own political career is that the only way for an Ulsterman to get on in Tory politics is to emigrate from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,
ESMOND BIRNIE
(Deputy Chairman, Conservative Area Council, Northern Ireland),
c/o Apartment 22,
Ashleigh Manor,
Windsor Avenue, Belfast,
March 26.

Popular classics

From Mr John Woolf

Sir, The argument as to the artistic integrity of musical soundbites (letters, March 23, 26) is very enjoyable. I cannot resist throwing in the fact that, in addition to making his recording of the *Rosenkavalier* waltzes in the 1920s, Strauss agreed to do so with only three first violins, compared with the 14 or more he would have been used to in the opera house.

I had the pleasure of knowing one of the three in later life: George Whitaker, a child prodigy who played in Sir Henry Wood's orchestra, aged 15, became a front-desk player in the London Symphony Orchestra, was a fine chess player, an enthusiastic walker across large tracts of North Africa, and, like Strauss, a practical man.

Becoming an elderly postman on retirement to Chalfont St Giles, he ensured his deliveries by making them in waltztime on a large tricycle.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WOOLF
(Director),
Park Lane Group,
Bedford Chambers,
Covent Garden Piazza, WC2,
March 26.

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Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

National interest in Europe's union

From Mr Michael Welsh

Sir, If justification were needed for Helmut Kohl's Louvain speech (report, February 25, leading article, February 26), when he warned of the potential for disaster if the European Union were to break up, it is supplied by Bill Cash's piece, "A party of the nation?" (March 21).

There may be a case for saying that Britain's national interest can be served only if she opts out of the process of European integration, but Cash goes much further. According to him, if 14 other independent sovereign states are not prepared voluntarily to accept an entirely British agenda, they should be compelled to do so, perhaps by use of a veto of the inter-governmental conference.

This is certainly nationalist, but it is profoundly undemocratic. The inevitable result would be a return to economic nationalism, protection and the balkanisation of Western Europe.

Conservatives in the House of Commons and elsewhere who think of themselves as Euro-sceptic must wonder whether they go along with all this.

Sentences such as "We have been treated with too much contempt for too long by those with whom we have tried to co-operate" have the authentic ring of Bismarck and the 1930s dictators: they have nothing whatever to do with Disraeli's generous vision of a party of One Nation.

The test to be applied is how we — let alone Bill Cash — would have reacted if a similar piece, *mutatis mutandis*, had appeared in *Die Zeit*.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL WELSH
(Chief Executive),
Action Centre for Europe Ltd,
181 Town Lane, Whittle le Woods,
Chorley, Lancashire,
March 22.

China and Taiwan

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sir, I was shocked by the leading articles on the Taiwan question in your paper (March 12 and 19). Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times, and the Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affair. This is a fact recognised by the international community.

Since the People's Republic of China was founded, most countries in the world, including the United States, have recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and Taiwan as a part of China.

Nothing but the claim that denies this fact is "dangerous nonsense" as you argue, and the Taiwan question brooks no foreign interference, in whatever form or under whatever pretext. It is the sacred right of each and every sovereign state and a fundamental principle of international law to safeguard national unity and territorial integrity.

The recent tension in the Taiwan Strait was entirely a result of the Taiwan authorities' advocating "Taiwan's independence" and their intensified efforts in creating "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas". The United States shoulders unshirkable

responsibility for this as well. It is the US rather than China that has violated the three Sino-US joint communique.

The wrong decisions of the United States to sell arms to Taiwan and permit Lee Teng-hui to visit the United States encouraged the pro-independence forces in Taiwan to go further, thus creating new serious obstacles to the settlement of the Taiwan question and the development of Sino-US relations.

The Chinese Government stands for, and has been working persistently for, a peaceful reunification of China based on the formula of one country, two systems. China's policy of not recognising the use of force is not directed against the Taiwan compatriots, but against foreign forces interfering in Taiwan seeking independence.

Peaceful reunification is the common aspiration of all the Chinese people. The Chinese Government and people will never permit the separation of Taiwan from China.

Sincerely yours,
JIANG ENZHU,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China,
49-51 Portland Place, W1.

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OBITUARIES

TERENCE SKEMP

Terence Skemp, CB, QC, Second Parliamentary Counsel, 1973-80, and Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85, died on March 15 aged 81. He was born on February 14, 1915.

DURING his 34 years as a parliamentary draftsman, Terence Skemp developed a notable capacity for seeing how projects put to him in a very crude form, as legislative projects often are, could be made to work. It was a capacity which he employed to good purpose in the Race Relations Act 1968 (the first attempt to tackle that difficult topic in Britain on a fairly wide front) and in the monster Local Government Act 1972. The latter would have taken far longer to prepare, and would have far exceeded its 448 pages, had it not included in a form acceptable to Parliament an unprecedentedly wide and comprehensive power. This enabled consequential repeals and amendments in the large body of public and local Acts dealing with local government matters to be made by subordinate legislation.

Terence Rowland Frazer Skemp was born in the Punjab, where his father was a judge. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, where he obtained an exhibition in law. At 21 he applied to join the Indian Civil Service, but was rejected as too young. He did not try again but instead read for the Bar, to which he was called by Gray's Inn early in 1938. He was a pupil of the renowned Sir John Foster, in whose chambers he stayed on after his pupillage, joining the Army in September 1939. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps throughout the war, was commissioned in January 1940, awarded the Croix de Guerre, and medically discharged in 1945 after suffering a severe and partially disabling leg wound.

This was about the time when Herbert Morrison, as Leader of the House of Commons, agreed to an enlargement of the establishment of the Parliamentary Counsel Office in order to enable the Labour Government's exceptionally heavy postwar legislative programme to be successfully carried through. In April 1946 Skemp was recruited by the then First Parliamentary Counsel, the redoubtable Sir Granville Ram (known affectionately in the office as "the maestro") on the recommendation of Hubert Parker (the future Lord Chief Justice), at that time junior counsel to the Treasury.

After a slightly shaky first three years (hardly surprising after so long away from the law), Skemp pulled himself up by his bootstraps and settled down to the long apprenticeship in the difficult art of legislative drafting which is necessary before one becomes fit to be let loose on Bills of one's own. In 1950 he spent six months in New Zealand and Australia studying their legislative processes. He was promoted to Deputy Parlia-



mentary Counsel in 1963, and to full Counsel in 1964, having from then on full responsibility for all the Bills allotted to him, among the first of which was that for the Firearms Act 1965. He received a letter of thanks from Barbara Castle, then Minister of Transport, for his work on the Docks and Harbours Act 1966 and a similar token of appreciation from the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, on the passing of the Criminal Justice Act 1967. After completing work on the Race Relations Act 1968 he spent a period with the Law Commission, producing several draft Bills which were published in reports issued by the Com-

mission with a view to improving the law. Having earlier gained valuable experience in the local government field from working as a "devil" on the London Government Act 1963, Skemp was allotted the Bill for the Local Government Act 1972, which completely reorganised local government (except in Greater London) throughout England and Wales.

This broke the record for size, being at that time the longest Bill ever presented to Parliament. In the following year he was appointed CB, and became Second Parliamentary Counsel jointly with the late Henry Rowe, it being then undecided which of the two would eventually succeed Sir Anthony Stinton as head of the office.

In the event, the succession went to Rowe, partly because in 1975 Skemp developed a heart condition. This did not prevent him from drafting the difficult Patents Act 1977, which entirely rewrote the law on that subject, and the Companies Act 1980, a major amending measure. He was also the draftsman of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, which famously began: "(1) The Industrial Relations Act 1971 is hereby repealed. (2) Nevertheless..." and went on to re-enact many of the politically unexceptionable provisions of the repealed Act.

On his retirement from the Parliamentary Counsel Office in 1980, aged 65, Skemp served for five years as Counsel to the Speaker, in which capacity his main duty was to examine statutory instruments as they appeared, and to bring any defects to the attention of the Joint Committee appointed to report on them. He came to this important task at a time when the number of statutory instruments was increasing and brought to it a fresh, active and eminently sensible approach. He took silk in 1984.

Outside his work, Terence Skemp was a quiet and very modest man, with a fund of anecdotes with which he liked to amuse his friends. He was a gifted amateur pianist, and enjoyed travel and gardening. He married his wife Norma in 1939 but they eventually separated; and he spent the last twenty years of his life with his partner Sandra who survives him, together with his widow, and one son and two daughters of his marriage.

DAVID PACKARD

David Packard, businessman and former United States Deputy Secretary of Defence in the Nixon Administration, died on March 26 aged 83. He was born on September 7, 1912.



IN THE cut-throat environment of modern American industry, with its massive worker lay-offs and remote senior executives, David Packard was a remarkable example of a very different management philosophy. By keeping in constant touch with his employees and giving full rein to their creativity, sharing profits and providing security, he built the Hewlett-Packard Company into one of the largest and most innovative electronics companies in the world.

Together with his partner, William Hewlett, Packard founded the concern in 1938 with a capital of \$538 and a workshop housed in his garage. Today it has 100,000 employees, and annual revenues of \$31 billion, with factories across the world.

Packard and Hewlett had been friends and electrical engineering students at Stanford University, where the oft-cited Packard had also been an outstanding athlete and football player.

Both enjoyed tinkering with electronics, and in short order they had invented a weight-reducing machine, an electronic harmonica tuner, and a foul-line indicator for bowling alleys. Their first commercial sale, however, was to Walt Disney, who ordered eight audio-oscillators for use on the sound-track of *Fantasia* at \$71.50 each. The Hewlett-Packard partnership turned a profit of \$1,653 in its first year, reinvested it in the business, and never looked back. The garage, recognised as the birthplace of Silicon Valley, is now a California state landmark.

As the corporation grew, Packard strove to maintain its small company atmosphere by creating numerous divisions and giving each a high

degree of autonomy which extended to the shop floor. Managers were encouraged to set objectives and to let the workers get on with the job. Combined with a technique known as "management by walking around", which had senior executives making themselves visible and accessible on the shop floor, it proved extremely effective. Packard himself, who had a horror of executive pomposity, insisted on being called "Dave" by his workers.

A lifelong liberal Republican, who had made substantial financial contributions to the party, Packard found himself the centre of controversy in 1969 when he was selected by President Nixon to become deputy to Melvin Laird as Secretary of Defence. The reason was a potential conflict of interest: Hewlett-Packard was a major defence contractor, selling an annual \$100 million worth of electronic instruments to the Pentagon, and Packard owned about 30 per cent of the stock worth \$289 million.

He resolved the issue by leaving the company, exchanging his \$1 million in-

come for a government salary of \$30,000, and putting his shares into a charitable trust. Although some, including Senator Albert Gore, were unconvinced, calling the move a book-keeping exercise, Packard won Senate confirmation easily and served with considerable success for the next three years before returning to Hewlett-Packard as chairman.

Packard was later appointed by President Reagan as chairman of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defence Management, recommending changes in the system of weapons procurement, and served as a member of the Trilateral Commission from 1973 to 1981.

During the 1980s Packard went into semi-retirement, though maintaining his official position with Hewlett-Packard. But, when the company got into financial difficulties in 1991, he returned to full-time work, and inspired the reorganisation which restored its fortunes.

David Packard is survived by one son and three daughters. His wife Lucille died in 1987.

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER ARCHIBALD

Christopher Archibald, Professor of Economics, University of British Columbia, 1970-91, died on February 27 aged 69. He was born on December 30, 1926.

J. M. KEYNES on one occasion remarked that an economist should be able to "understand symbols and speak in words, contemplate the particular in terms of the general, and touch abstract and concrete in the same flight of thought". Chris Archibald possessed a philosopher's awareness of what can and cannot be said with words and symbols, a mathematician's precision and a scientist's inclination towards testable predictions and critical experiments. He also had a firm grasp of the historical stage on which economic drama is enacted. Although he had no single big idea such as leads to a Nobel Prize, among his generation he had few equals as an economist's economist.

George Christopher Archibald was the son of the deputy regional commissioner for the Midlands during the Second World War. His father was awarded an hereditary peerage as Baron Archibald of Woodside in the City of Glasgow by the Antler Government. This presented Archibald, as the only son,

with a problem. Although having no objection to the award of honours on merit, he failed to see the logic of hereditary titles and so disclaimed the peerage when his father died in 1975.

Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy in the United States, Archibald took a wartime history degree at Cambridge, served in the Royal Army Education Corps from 1945 to 1948, and completed his education at LSE, where he studied analytical and descriptive economics. After a spell lecturing at the University of Otago he joined the staff at LSE, where he became a leading member of a group of Young Turks, dedicated to the rigorous testing of economic propositions.

In the 1950s the economics profession tended to be split between theorists who did not wander too far from their armchairs, and applied economists who did not venture too far from description. Archibald and other young colleagues at LSE, through the vehicle of their Methodology, Measurement and Testing (MMT) seminar series, declared a revolt. Economic propositions were to be isolated for rigorous analytical examination and exposed to empirical tests in order to separate the wheat from the chaff. An underlying influence came from colleagues in the



LSE philosophy department such as Karl Popper and Joseph Agassi. It was in this crucible that Archibald's distinctive approach to economic analysis was forged. The hallmark of analytical clarity can be seen in *Monetary and Value Theory* (1958) in which he and Dick Lipsey demonstrated that a change in the value of real money balances could have only a transitory effect on consumption as economies moved from one equilibrium to another. The insistence that an informative theory must be able to produce refutable predictions is well exemplified in *Chamberlin versus Chicago* (1961). The careful derivation

and testing of refutable implications is evident in his empirical work on inflation and unemployment.

The MMT project in retrospect might seem to have been heroic but naive in its confidence in the ability of empirical tests to arbitrate between rival economic theories. Addressing this problem in *Refutation or Comparison?* (1966), Archibald displayed a sophisticated awareness that testing more often allowed the empirical content of rival theories to be compared rather than refuted outright.

Archibald's enthusiasm for his subject was infectious. The world is full of students who found him the most stimulating teacher encountered in their whole course of studies. If students displayed a serious interest in the subject he was always available to deal with their intellectual and personal problems.

From LSE he joined the University of Essex in 1964, first as Reader, three years later becoming a Professor. In 1970 he moved to British Columbia — not least because of the excellent salmon rivers there. He was a highly productive Professor of Economics at the University of British Columbia from 1970 to 1991. On retirement he returned to Britain, initially to his native Scotland before settling in Appleby-in-Westmorland.

Besides his interest in economics, Archibald carried with him the integrity and sense of perspective that characterise a civilised human being. In his company, discussion of economic matters was always part of a wider canvas of human experience that included wars, disasters, mountains, rugby, bears and fish that got away. His painful final illness was borne with good humour. His first marriage ended in divorce, and he is survived by his second wife, Daphne. There were no children.

ALAN RIDOUT

Alan Ridout, composer, died from a heart attack in Caen, France, on March 19 aged 61. He was born in West Wickham, Kent, on December 9, 1934.

FROM his earliest childhood, Alan Ridout knew that he would devote his life to music. He heard music in his head, and by the age of 12 he had written down, almost as if by dictation, more than a hundred works. Throughout his life he remained a fluent and prolific composer. He wrote some 15 operas, six ballets, eight symphonies, 25 concertante works, chamber music (including eight string quartets), instrumental music and a great deal of church music. He was also an early experimenter with electronic techniques, his 1959 *Psalm for Six Wave Generators* being one of the first pieces of purely electronic music by an English composer.

Alan Ridout began formal musical instruction at the age of nine when, despite vociferous protest from his father, his mother arranged for him to take piano lessons. Three years later he had passed the final grade of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examination with distinction and had already completed more than a hundred works including a symphony, numerous concertante pieces, chamber music and choral settings — all modelled on classical principles. At the age of 15, Ridout left Haberdashers' Aske's school, then in Hampstead, and began studying music professionally. He spent two years at the Guildhall School of Music

where, apart from working at composition and conducting, he continued his piano studies, giving his first public recital at the age of 16.

His primary interest in composition, however, took him to the Royal College of Music where he worked for two years with Gordon Jacob and for a further two years with Herbert Howells. By the time he left in 1954 several of his works had been performed, mainly at concerts of the Society for the Promotion of New Music.



His first instrumental work to be professionally performed was a concerto for string orchestra, written when he was 14.

Ridout went on to teach at a school near Tunbridge Wells, continuing his studies in composition meanwhile under Peter Racine Fricker and Sir Michael Tippett. He was awarded a Netherlands Government Scholarship in 1958 and while he was over there several of his works were published, including a partita for cello solo.

Returning to England, Ridout embarked upon a comprehensive study of early music, working alongside Thurston Dart, Professor of Music at Cambridge University. He also started teaching at Birmingham University and the Royal College of Music, as well as broadcasting for the BBC, including a series of 40 programmes, *Background to Music* and a further series *Background to Musical Form*. For these he compiled and wrote the companion volumes.

By 1964 he was teaching at both Cambridge and London universities, while being Professor of Theory and Composition at the Royal College of Music. Moving to Canterbury in 1968, he was also composer in residence to the cathedral and the choir school and writing a poignant version of Bertold Brecht's story of children drifting through the nightmarish, broken world of postwar Germany.

After the closure of the choir school, Ridout joined the music staff at King's College, Canterbury. Here he taught for many years. His mischievous delight in practical jokes was particularly appreciated by his pupils. But in 1990 he suffered a severe heart attack and, three years later, he decided to move to France, something he had always dreamt of doing. He was also received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1994, being made an oblate of the order of St Benedict soon afterwards.

His last major work *Canticle of Joy* was premiered at the Three Choirs Festival last year. Alan Ridout never married.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANIMALS IN NEED

Help a dog in need by donating to the RSPCA. Call 0171 732 1188.

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Ensure your loved ones are taken care of by making a will. Call 0171 732 1188.

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Support kidney research and help save lives. Call 0171 732 1188.

HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS

Help the homeless by donating to the Church Housing Trust. Call 0171 732 1188.

PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED

Support animals in need by donating to the RSPCA. Call 0171 732 1188.

COURT & SOCIAL PAGE

Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply. All notices to appear on Friday April 5, Saturday April 6, Monday April 8, Tuesday April 9 must be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday April 3. All notices are accepted subject to confirmation. Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax 0171 481 9313

THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS

(From our Special Correspondent) Paris, March 26, evening... I confess that I am amazed at the moderation of the rebels. I think that they have borne their honours meekly. They saw that no effort was made by our lawful protectors to avenge the massacre in the Rue de la Paix on Wednesday, and yet they have refrained from slaughtering any more of us. I live in a street close to the Committee's military Headquarters. It is guarded at either end by double posts of Montmartre and Belleville nationalists. The gate of my hotel is kept locked, and the windows of the lower storeys are blinded with iron shutters. Well, all of us in this street are allowed to go in and out of our domiciles, and there has been no attempt on our lives and properties. Even at the risk of being dealt with as traitors by the Government at Versailles, we are all very grateful to the armed representatives of the Central Committee. Our very existence is in the hands of these men. The Nationalists of Order have completely deserted us, and as for our legitimate rulers, they don't give us the protection of even a policeman. It is any wonder, then, that a lead was taken off the hearts of the citizens last evening when they

ON THIS DAY

March 28, 1871 A commune elected by Parisians to rule the city after France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War was crushed by Government troops in May and 25,000 insurgents killed

THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS

Boulevards, and if a Prussian Etappen Commander had requisitioned all the jobmasters of Paris, carriages could not have appeared on the scene with more instantaneous rapidity. The lines of brilliant bayonets disappeared from the corners of the Rue Drouot and the Rue Vivienne; Nationalists of Order and Nationalists of "Disorder" — (I suppose I must use the term by way of distinction, though it does sound rather disrespectful to the party in power) — embraced and kissed; and I found myself carried away in a crowd who were shouting "Vive la République!" and waving their hats as a battalion of the Marmarine troops marched proudly along the Boulevard des Invalides. Today the elections have been going on peacefully, and all Paris is out promenading. Everyone is turning down from the Place de l'Opéra to see the fortifications in the Place Vendôme, which they — the public — are allowed to view across the saving stone obstruction if they obey the order "Circule" not standing too long in one spot... In compliment to my nationality I was permitted to enter the Place itself and inspect all the defenses. I believe that a foreigner of any nationality, even Prussia, does not stand a worse chance in Paris now than he did before the Civil War commenced...

NEWS

Blair to ballot party on manifesto

Tony Blair is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

All 365,000 members will be consulted next autumn about a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government and the document will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

Revolution in the sixth form

Gillian Shephard signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered tighter A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

French victim

A French victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease.

Clarke stands firm

Kenneth Clarke has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the question of a referendum on a single currency by saying Malcolm Rifkind must be present.

Tories hold up

Support for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July.

Tough S levels

High-flying students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch the most able sixth-formers.

easy GCSEs

Students criticised GCSEs as "too easy" in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing. They also doubted the relevance of A levels for later life.

MP banned

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, was fined £450 and banned from driving after he left an accident where a toddler's pushchair was trapped between cars.

Briton ran for his life

A Briton told the "backpacker trial" how he ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire on him.

Charge dropped

Rachel Heath, a home help accused of attempting to murder a woman who was suffering from terminal cancer, had her case dismissed.

Turin trauma

The BSE crisis has cast a harsh new light on the EU summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference.

Patient killed father

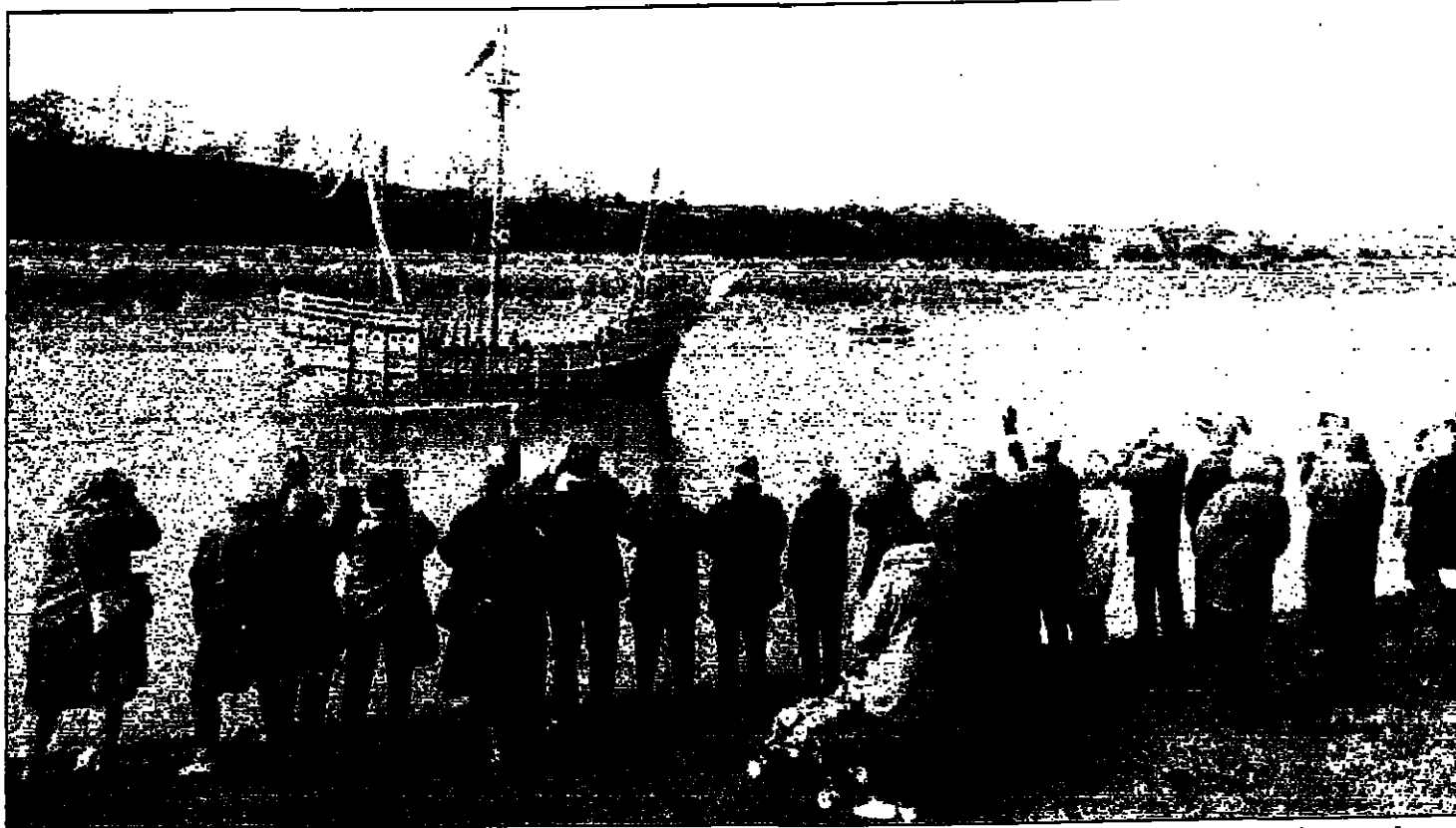
A mental patient allowed back into the community despite known homicidal tendencies killed his father and two pensioners.

Patten refusal

Chris Patten, the Governor, rejected British proposals to set up a second legislature in Hong Kong before the colony's handover in 1997.

Navy women wear the trousers

The Royal Navy's bell-bottom trousers have been reprieved after a review of uniforms. Female ratings are going to wear them as well, with the square rig top of their male counterparts, and they will no longer be allowed to carry a handbag to work.



Thousands of people watched The Matthew, a replica of John Cabot's flagship, as she left Bristol to start sea trials yesterday

BUSINESS

Jaguar: The company won £80 million of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

Motorway: BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds.

Competition: Plans for a law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 11.5 points to close at 3672.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.2 to 83.4 after a fall from \$1.522 to \$1.5185 but a rise from DM2.2465 to DM2.2583.

SPORT

Racing: Cigar, the 1995 North American horse of the year, won the \$4 million Dubai World Cup over two other American horses, Soul Of The Matter and L'Carriere.

Motor racing: Viviane Sena, sister of the late world champion driver, has raised \$2 million this year towards helping Brazilian children to escape poverty.

Rugby league: After nine months of rehabilitation and pain, Frano Botica is ready to resume the most prodigious points-scoring career in the modern game.

Bowls: Tony Allcock, the defending champion, recovered from 24-15 down to defeat Noel Kennedy in the world outdoor singles championship in Adelaide.

ARTS

Cinema competition: Have you ever wanted to write a screenplay? The Times Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break.

New films: Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new Dead Man Walking, while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick Cutthroat Island.

Robbins speaks: Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row in his new film Dead Man Walking.

Not convincing: Stephen Sondheim's Passion, newly arrived in the West End, is a sentimental and silly musical, says Benedict Nightingale.

FEATURES

Rhythm and blues: Jools Holland, jazz pianist and TV personality, used to find talking about his private life excruciating.

Sexism and sickness: Psychologists have found a syndrome affecting ambitious women.

Whitewash: Why the Duchess of York felt the need to flaunt her new blanched looks.

Maths: Day Four of the national curriculum guide.

TRAVEL

Cross country: Tour operators are promoting Australia's open roads for fly-drive holidays.

BOOKS

Uses and abuses: Cultural chameleon Melvyn Bragg's new novel, links between primate grooming and conversation; shared German guilt on Jews.

THE PAPERS

The US Treasury has introduced a new \$100 bill without withdrawing the old in order to stamp out counterfeiters without upsetting the millions of foreigners who feel safer with dollars than with their own money.

BSE: Robin Hood; EU and UK status; China and Taiwan; Orde Wingate.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Muhammad Ali, boxer and political activist, reassessed in Reputations (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond grudgingly warms to Hearts of Gold. Page 47

OPINION

Academic questions

The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics.

Pain for gain

The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax.

Our fretful relations

Judges think they smell hubbug when faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source.

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from British beef than one is to win the Lottery. But that is not much of an argument to use to the British public, 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning.

PETER RIDDELL

This will be a tight document - no "shopping-list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. There are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be different.

JOHN BRYANT

A century ago beef tea was the chosen stimulant for the mad keen sportsman, thought even more effective than morphine, strychnine and belladonna. You could take what you liked - and it was your own lookout.

DEBATES

Terence Skemp, Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85; David Packard, US Deputy Secretary of Defence; Professor Christopher Archibald, economist.

BSE: Robin Hood; EU and UK status; China and Taiwan; Orde Wingate.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

WIZARD OZ: Free 16-page pullout guide to holidays in Australia, from downtown Sydney to the deepest outback.

MAN FROM AUNTIE: Valerie Grove meets Marmaduke Hussey, the retiring BBC chairman.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,127

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues. The grid is partially filled with letters.

- ACROSS
1 Give me feathers for my clothing? Not originally (4-2-4).
6 Beak revealing what the charge is (4).
9 Possibly an MP, et al., I run into here (10).
10 Relation of fisherman, say, returned new fish (4).
12 Lock up using various keys (4).
13 Look into one special point as proposer of terms (9).
15 In the grip of corrupt bosses and editor (8).
16 Fly - from France, is repeatedly coming back (6).
18 Football striker reported (6).
20 King's supporter as employer of staff, I note (8).
23 Pollute river with contents of bursting crates (9).
24 Was willing to create political group (4).

A word search puzzle titled 'Solution to Puzzle No 20,126'. It contains a grid of letters and a list of words to be found, including DYNAMIC, HARNESSES, RAINCOAT, and others.

AA ROADWATCH

A table listing road conditions for various regions in the UK, including London, the Midlands, and the South. It includes details on traffic, roadworks, and weather conditions.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

A table showing the hours of darkness for various locations in the UK, including London, Edinburgh, and Belfast. It lists the times when the sun sets and rises.

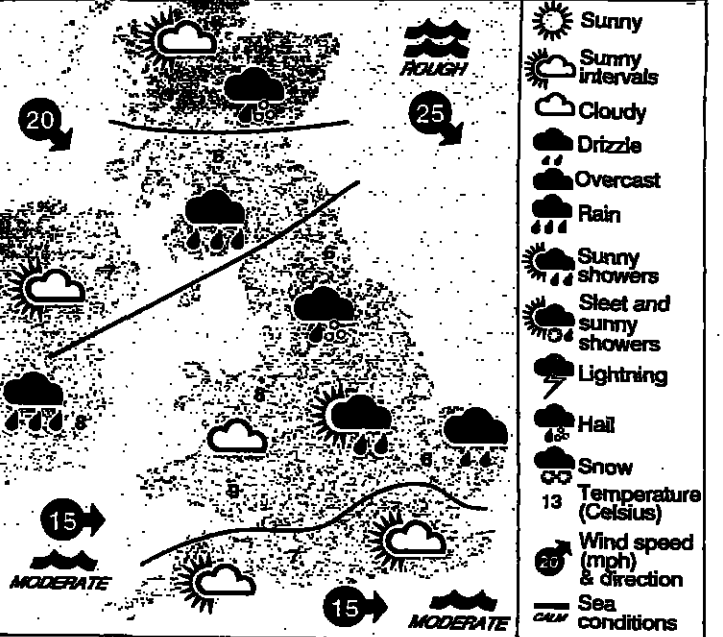
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

A table providing a summary of weather conditions across different parts of Britain, including London, the Midlands, and the South. It lists temperature, wind, and precipitation.

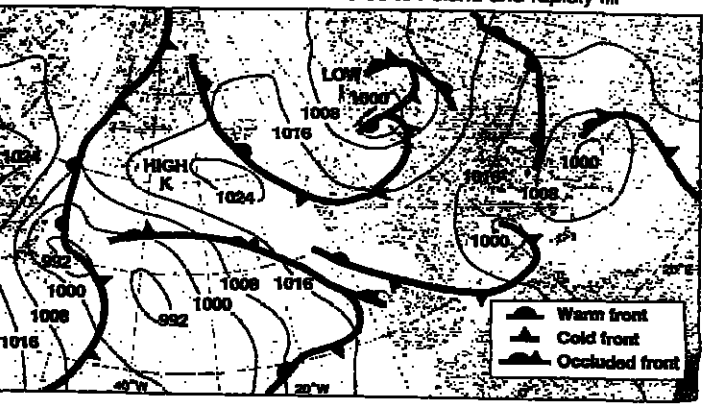
REPERCUSSIONS

A table showing the impact of weather conditions on various parts of the world, including London, New York, and other major cities. It lists temperature, wind, and precipitation.

WEATHER



Changes to the chart below from noon: high K will remain stationary and decline. Low I will track southwards to Poland and rapidly fill.



TODAY'S WEATHER

A table providing a summary of weather conditions for various parts of the world, including London, New York, and other major cities. It lists temperature, wind, and precipitation.

REPERCUSSIONS

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Southampton, Dorset, 8C (46F); lowest day temp: Durham, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Far Isle, between Orkney and Shetland, 0.3in; highest sunshine: Stroud, Shropshire, Liverpool, and Bristol, 10.7h.

A large advertisement for Bermuda Tourism. It features the headline 'The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.' and provides contact information for Bermuda Tourism, including a phone number and a website reference.

BUSINESS

Acqu

Job

as

Win

Pikin

1.900

A vertical column of text on the right edge of the page, containing various fragments and possibly a list of items or a partial article.

When you see 500 pages

ECONOMIC VIEW 29

Hong Kong: the magnet for foreign cash

BOOKS 38, 39

Mysteries of the origins of language

SPORT 42-48

Sister of mercy keeps memory of Senna alive

AUSTRALIA GOES FOR SELF DRIVE Travel 40, 41

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

Acquisitive Lloyds TSB courts New Zealand bank

By Rachel Bridge and Patricia Terhan

LLOYDS TSB is believed to be planning its third massive acquisition in less than a year with the takeover of Trust Bank New Zealand, which has a market valuation of £600 million.

New Zealand, Sir Brian Pitman, Lloyds TSB chief executive, has made no secret of his admiration for the New Zealand banking and financial system and the economy's low level of inflation.

wealth Bank, which is up for sale for an estimated \$500 million. Lloyds TSB does not currently have a significant presence in Australia, where four banks are thought to be inviting bids, although National Bank of New Zealand does have a wholesale banking business in Australia.

Bank has been seen as the other potential partner for Trust Bank. Trust Bank, which is mostly involved in mortgage lending, is 78 per cent owned by community trusts, a 22 per cent stake in Trust Bank was floated on the New Zealand stock market two years ago.

or a stake of about 50 per cent. Some community trust shareholders have said they are not willing to sell. The bank would be a good fit with National Bank of New Zealand and with Lloyds TSB's mortgage expertise in the UK.

tier 1 capital ratio fell to below 6 per cent after its reverse takeover of TSB. One analyst said yesterday: "It is not in any position to spend."

Jobs bonanza as Jaguar wins £80m aid

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

JAGUAR yesterday won its fight for £80 million worth of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

of Trade. He told European Commissioners that the investment was one of the most important in the European motor industry but would be lost to the United States unless the aid was available to Ford, Jaguar's parent company.

missioner van Miert in Brussels about the strategic importance of this project for the British car industry and for the West Midlands.

Pilkington cuts 1,900 workers

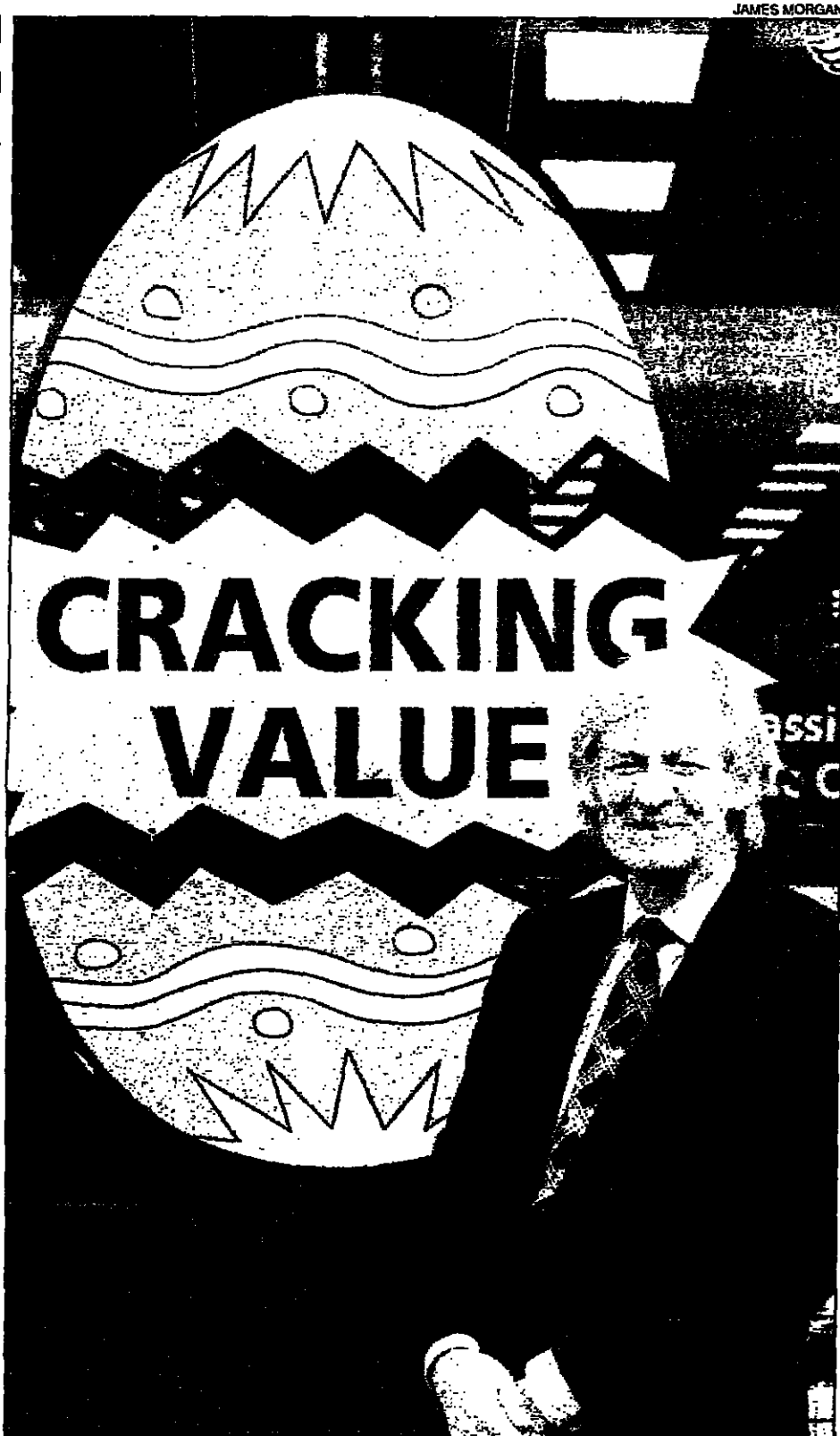
By Alasdair Murray

PILKINGTON, the glass-maker, yesterday revealed it was cutting 1,900 jobs worldwide and would take a £155 million exceptional charge in this year's accounts for restructuring.

the £120 million purchase of the Italian SUV last November. In the US Pilkington said it would rationalise its glass plants focusing on the production of laminated, tempered and encapsulated glass. The company will also cut costs at its German building products arm after a difficult trading year.



Leverton: "potential"



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy saw Kingfisher, the Woolworths group, lift profits to £287 million

Kingfisher's B&Q dives

By Sarah Bagnall

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths to Comet retail group, yesterday reported a sharp fall in profits from its B&Q subsidiary, but denied that the chain's chief executive had come close to leaving because of a clash of views over the way forward for the do-it-yourself business.

scope for £20 million of efficiency gains in B&Q. Referring to speculation that Jim Hodgkinson, head of B&Q, was about to go because of differences of opinion, Sir Geoffrey said "it was never an issue" and that the resulting plan of action was put to the board by Mr Hodgkinson.

BICC and Trafalgar to operate motorway

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds. BICC, which did not pre-qualify replaced Wimpey as Trafalgar's partner after Wimpey was acquired by Tarmac in an asset swap.

Labour wants annual reports on training

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITISH companies will have to include details of their training performance in their annual reports if Labour comes to power, according to new proposals to be announced today.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rate, London Money, Sterling, Dollar, and North Sea Oil.

Arjo chief executive bows out

ALAIN SOULAS, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, is to leave by mutual consent with a total compensation package expected to top £1 million (George Sivel writes).

Skills agenda, page 29

Delta Air Lines advertisement featuring a Delta plane and the slogan 'When you fly Delta nothing should get in the way of you relaxing.' Includes contact information for Delta Air Lines.

Dual stock auctions to help sell £32bn gilts

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

THE Government announced yesterday that it estimates it will need to sell £32.6 billion of gilts during the coming financial year and unveiled plans for three new dual stock auctions.

The figure for estimated gilt sales is so high because of a large number of gilt redemptions that have to be refinanced. These are expected to total £11.5 billion, compared with £4.1 billion.

The new dual stock auctions will, for example, mean that the Bank of England could auction one stock on a Tuesday and another one on Thursday. The aim is to reduce the size of individual auctions and enable the authorities to fund more evenly across maturity bands. In the next financial year, there will be three dual auctions and eight traditional single stock auctions.

The Government also confirmed yesterday that it will not hold auctions for index-linked gilts which will continue to be sold through taps.

The gilt market finished a touch lower yesterday, partly because the Government's *Debt Management Report* focused attention on the large amount of stock that has to be absorbed next year. Earlier, however, a £3 billion auction of five-year gilts was more than two-and-a-half times subscribed. This far better than the market had expected.



Graham Howe, left, finance director, and Hans Snook were delighted to talk about the success of Orange's flotation yesterday

Investors get the taste for Orange

By Eric Reguly

SHARES in Orange, the third-largest mobile phone company, opened for trading yesterday at 245p, well above their issue price of 205p, and closed at 237p, with 69 million shares changing hands.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, said in hindsight the company could have priced the shares higher, but was happy with the price level chosen. The indicated price range was 175p to 205p and strong demand (the issue was ten times oversubscribed) ensured that few investor applications came in below 205p.

He said: "The important thing for us was not ultimately to squeeze every tiny bit that we could out of this thing. We are after all a company that is not making money."

Orange has about 480,000 customers, against 379,000 at the end of December. It is not expected to post operating profits before 1997. Its pre-tax loss in 1995 was £140.5 million.

The offer price valued Orange at £2.45 billion and raised £624 million before the over-allotment of 32.5 million shares, or 10 per cent of the total offering of 325 million shares. Of the total, some 26 million shares went to 33,000 individual investors in Britain.

Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong group that launched Orange in 1994, now has a stake of almost 50 per cent, down from 68 per cent, while British Aerospace's stake fell from 32 per cent to about 22 per cent. The success of the flotation helped to boost BAE shares by 13p to 868p.

Orange plans to use the funds raised to pay off shareholder debt and expand its network. It is aiming for 95 per cent coverage by the end of next year, up from 85 per cent at the end of 1995.

Lang outlines updated law to tackle cartels

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

PLANS for a new law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government.

The Office of Fair Trading will be given new powers to enter premises and seize or copy documents when searching for evidence of market-rigging, if a Green Paper unveiled by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is implemented. The OFT would also be empowered to make prohibition orders, banning apparently anti-competitive practices until an investigation into them was completed.

The proposals, awaited since

reforms were promised in 1989, mark a fundamental shift to bring UK competition law closer into line with practice in continental Europe.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, welcomed the proposals enthusiastically and called for them to be implemented "as soon as possible". He said: "Strengthening the investigatory powers of the Director-General of Fair Trading to uncover cartels and deal with abuse of market power is to be welcomed. It is overdue."

The announcement was also welcomed by British Telecom. The company said the thrust of the Green Paper supported

its position in discussions with OfTel, the telecoms regulator, over OfTel proposals for a general prohibition of anti-competitive behaviour in the telecommunications industry.

"We note that it expressly envisages a right to have a decision of the OFT reviewed by an independent tribunal and for points of law to be referred to the High Court on appeal," the company said. Thus far, OfTel has rejected BT's pleas for such an appeal mechanism.

Mr Lang said he wanted to consult widely to achieve "a system that will bring benefits to business and consumers while at the same time not

imposing any unnecessary regulatory burdens".

The new law is expected to strengthen British competition law and bring it into line with Article 85 of the European Community treaty. Under the proposals, companies that are party to illegal agreements will be liable to fines of up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover. Directors who negotiate or operate prohibited agreements could face fines of up to £150,000 in the High Court.

The OFT, which has 420 staff and an annual budget of £19.4 million, expects to reinforce its 60-strong investigations department if the proposals become law.

BT launches cable trial for video on demand

By Our City Staff

BT yesterday formally unveiled its first video on demand trial for cable customers, whose digital format, if successful, might create the benchmark for the fledgling industry. BT said it might offer the technology to rival cable companies.

The trial is under way in BT's relatively small Westminster cable franchise in London, the only cable business it owns and operates. The £3 million experiment is to expand from 100 customers to 1,000 by the summer, making it one of the largest of its kind in the world.

The Westminster trial is unlike BT's video on demand experiments in Ipswich and Colchester, which began last year and cover some 5,000 homes. The latter use standard BT phone lines and customers cannot receive live programming because of regulations that prevent BT from using its phone network for broadcasting.

Since Westminster is a cable franchise, BT is free to offer both phone and live video services. In addition, cables have a much higher capacity than phone lines, speeding up the interaction time between BT's computers and the viewers.

Trial customers in Westminster can call up movies, BBC services and a range of TV shows, including *Blackadder* and *Fawlty Towers*, whenever they want. They need a special remote control, but no set-top box. The expanded trial will focus on usage patterns and, more importantly, pricing. The service is currently free.

Rupert Gavin, BT's multi-media director, said reports that the company's various video on demand trials would lead to £500 million investment were "pure conjecture".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	15.86	15.36
Belgium Fr	33.83	45.05
Canada \$	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.894
Denmark Kr	6.82	8.52
Finland Mk	7.80	6.95
France Fr	8.12	7.47
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	368.00	380.00
Hong Kong \$	12.41	11.41
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.180	4.200
Italy Lira	2500.00	2345.00
Japan Yen	175.20	180.30
Korea Won	0.528	0.534
Netherlands Gld	2.876	2.448
New Zealand \$	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr	10.38	9.59
Portugal Esc	244.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	6.54	5.74
Spain Ptas	198.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.72	9.20
Switzerland Fr	1.86	1.77
Taiwan Nts	112.070	104.070
USA \$	1.619	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Barclays cuts sum for pension fund

BARCLAYS BANK is to cut its contribution to its main UK pension fund, the Barclays 1964 Fund, by two thirds, or £50 million, for the next three years after an actuarial valuation showed it in surplus. Bfu, the banking union, condemned the move as "immoral". Rob MacGregor, of Bfu, said: "We want that money spent on the lowest income pensioners."

The bank is cutting contributions from £75 million to £25 million, or from the equivalent of 7.5 per cent of salary to 2.5 per cent. A three-yearly valuation last year put the fund value at sufficient to cover 125 per cent of accrued benefits. Barclays said: "This does not affect the staff, but will cost the group less."

Mid Kent ready to fight

MID KENT, the water company, may make a legal challenge to a possible bid by two French companies. Mid Kent says that the bid, which needs Monopolies and Mergers Commission approval to proceed, flies in the face of a 1991 MMC ruling that General Utilities must limit its Mid Kent stake to 19.5 per cent. General Utilities, UK arm of Générale des Eaux, the French utilities giant, has proposed a bid for Mid Kent with Saur, another French company. Both own part or all of two of Mid Kent's water company neighbours. Pennington, page 27

Aegis stake for sale

OMNICON, the US advertising group, proposes to sell its 9.1 per cent interest in Aegis Group, the British advertising and media planning company. Omnicon will also dispose of its 50 million Aegis warrants, for which Aegis is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Omnicon acquired the shares and warrants when Aegis refinanced in 1993. Yesterday Aegis reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £33.6 million from £20.1 million in 1994. Earnings were 2.6p a share (1.1p). Dividend payments will resume this year. Pennington, page 27

Churchill buys Pet Plan

CHURCHILL is to announce its acquisition of Pet Plan, the animal insurance company, within weeks. John O'Roarke, its deputy managing director, said yesterday. The high street insurer, part of Winterthur, the Swiss insurer, said there was a lot of scope to develop Pet Plan because a large proportion of the pet-owning public had never bought cover for their animals. Mr O'Roarke said: "There is an opportunity to broaden the customer base in a market which is currently worth £100 million."

Industry spending falls

CAPITAL spending by manufacturing industries in the fourth quarter was down 5 per cent on the previous quarter and was virtually the same as a year ago, according to revised figures from the Central Statistical Office. For the year as a whole, capital spending increased 8 per cent compared with the figure in 1994. Total capital spending by all industries was 1 per cent higher than in both the previous quarter and a year ago. Spending in 1995 was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Independent record

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, the Irish media group, made record profits of Ir£50 million in 1995 (Ir£37.7 million). Operating profits increased to Ir£49 million (Ir£40.5 million). The rise was chiefly because of the inclusion of Independent Newspaper Holdings, the South African subsidiary, which recently reported a 41 per cent profit increase. The total dividend rises to Ir10p (Ir8.5p) with a final Ir6.5p. Earnings rose to Ir25.10p (Ir20p). IN has a 43.3 per cent interest in Newspaper Publishing, which publishes the UK title *The Independent*.

Tibbett & Britten falls

PRE-TAX PROFITS of Tibbett & Britten, the logistics and supply chain management group, fell sharply to £12.1 million in 1995, from £26.9 million in 1994, in spite of a 41 per cent advance in turnover, to £652.9 million, from £464 million. The results were adversely affected by a downturn in Axtal UK, the automotive logistics subsidiary. Earnings per share fell to 18.7p, from 42.8p. However, the total dividend is maintained at 16.2p, with an unchanged 11.2p final, which helped the shares to recover 82p to 505p yesterday.



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03 D Hill	09 HH Frentzen	15 P Dink	
GROUP B	GROUP D	GROUP F	GROUP H
04 G Berger	10 M Brundell	16 U Katajama	21 L Badoer
05 E Irvine	11 R Barrichello	17 J Verstappen	22 A Montemini
06 J Villeneuve	12 J Herbert	18 O Panis	

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مكتبة من الأصل

□ Pilkington's provision of excuses □ Ford backs Britain at a price □ Cheap insurance in a perfect world

Counting the wildebeest

□ SLIP down the rabbit hole, trip through the looking glass, Pilkington's finest, of course, and welcome to the Alice-in-Wonderland world of modern company accounts. A newborn babe or a casual onlooker might assume that the numbers companies are required to report by law have some bearing on events in the real world. The City, of course, knows better.

Accounting standards, rather like that age-old struggle between builders of warships and those making the guns that sink them, are essentially a race between one gang that provides the armour by tightening up the rules and another looking to blow loopholes in them.

The latest round in that struggle is over one-off provisions against profits. These are designed to cope with those little accidents — factories razed to the ground by fire, earthquake or rabid wildebeest, say — that are unpredictable and should therefore be separated from "proper" profits. We made this much, but except for those wildebeest, we would have made this much, so please, if you would, focus on the second figure.

How nice to be able to remove £X million from this year's profits, blaming those wildebeest rather than the management, and then take the credit for using them to inflate next year's profits.

The City, of course, is not fooled, as it is used to smoothing out any one-off humps to give a view on underlying performance — supposedly. Consider two releases that hit analysts' desks this week.

A profits model for Railtrack from SBC Warburg, in charge of the float this summer, assumes an £11 million exceptional loss for last year, and each of the next five financial years. In other words, one-off, unpredictable costs will cost exactly this, on each and every year to the end of the century. Just this number of wildebeest — no more, no less.

More seriously, yesterday Pilkington announced a £155 million exceptional charge to cover restructuring and job losses, even though the jobs have not yet been agreed or, apparently, even identified. A certain, but unquantified, number will be in St Helens, Pilkington's home base and the focus of that extraordinary local loyalty that helped fight off the 1986 bid from big bad conglomerate BTR.

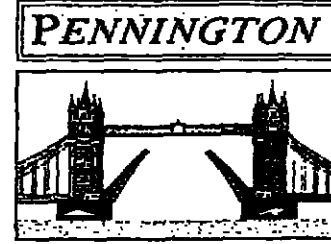
This looks perilously close to what Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, calls "big bath"

accounting — you pour the bath as deep as you can, and then run off the water later to the depth needed. For Pilkington, which was being unhelpful about the actual numbers yesterday, it has two advantages. Big provisions allow pretty well any dividend to be paid, without reference to niceties such as whether it is covered by real earnings.

Second, the exceptionals, covering a three-year programme, come in just months before action from the ASB to tighten the accounting rules even further — action that might make such provisions rather less acceptable in the future.

Jaguar pounces on state subsidy

□ RELIEF and joy abound among the ragged-trousered engineers of Coventry and the bare-footed teenagers of Castle Bromwich. The grateful indigent of the English Midlands will doubtless wave multi-starred European Union flags gratefully at any passing Volkswagen or Renault in case they should



contain one of those stern but fair officials from Brussels. At last, these officials have graciously permitted the British Government to hand £40 million smack-ers, as well as £40 million in kind, to Ford. This aid succeeded in persuading America's number two auto group to build its new small Jaguar car in our starving regional outpost.

Otherwise, so it is said, Ford might well have made the highly traditional, hand-crafted Old-Englishe Jaguar in Hicksville, Michigan, the Philippines or Sri Lanka. You might think that would not have been the ideal marketing play if the plan was to challenge the BMW 5 series with classic British craftsmanship. But Ford certainly convinced

those hard-headed types at the DTI that it was serious and that this was the deal.

Who is quibbling, in any case? State aid to Jaguar is plainly a quite different proposition from foreign state aid for Air France, Iberian Airways or Groupe Bull. To start with, they are state-controlled, Jaguar only used to be. The Government then acted smartly to allow a Ford takeover, thinking this would stop Jaguar sponging off the taxpayers.

Britain's £80 million boost for Jaguar output was also aimed to add new competition for other European car producers, whereas continental state aid for airlines was intended to help close part of the industry's excess capacity. Clearly, the British aid is more creative and since competition is good, it must be good for our continental competitors.

The taxpayers' bill for the belated Jaguar 2.4 replacement is also smaller, comfortably under £100 million compared with the billions pumped into foreign airlines. That is a small price, given that subsidy is still the way of the big-project world. Taxpayers should rejoice too and

trust that Ford markets this exciting new car so well that no one could conceive of Jaguars being made anywhere else.

Insurers take cover in claim-free zone

□ THE rewards for a blameless existence are no longer confined to the afterlife — just promise to walk a safe but dull path in the here-and-now. If you are in a part of the country that has never suffered from floods or subsidence, if you have never been burgled, have driven for 20 years without a scratch on your car, if you live as far as possible from a major city, in short, if you are never likely to make a claim, then, boy, do we have an insurance policy for you.

If, like the rest of us, you have suffered the odd prang, had your video recorder stolen and lost your luggage at a foreign airport, the response is less friendly.

Insurers make much of their ability to pinpoint risk exactly. Why, they ask, should the careful driver in a provincial town be made to pay for the excesses of

the boy racer in the city? But the point of insurance is that risk is pooled. If the industry's argument was taken to its logical conclusion, each of us would be assessed individually.

The possibility of genetic testing brings that logical conclusion much nearer. Swiss Re has drawn back, but some insurers in the United States already require customers to take tests before they buy life assurance. Penalising all but the physically and mentally perfect raises serious moral questions. By contrast, no one should be forced to insure the uninsurable. But most of us fall somewhere between the two.

Change of course

□ THERE'S a bit of leakage in the pipes in Mid Kent. The small water company of the same name was five years ago partially sealed against any intrusions from the French Générale des Eaux. The MMC told General Utilities, its UK arm, to cut its stake in Mid Kent to 19.5 per cent and not to team up with others to take that holding higher. But last December, GU chose to gang up with SAUR, another French concern, to propose a bid for Mid Kent. So what has changed in five years? We may soon learn from the courts whether undertakings made to the MMC really do hold water.

Caradon's profits slump after 'horrendous 1995'

By SARAH BAGNALL

PETER JANSEN, chief executive at Caradon, said 1995 had been "horrendous" and the worst year of recession for the building products group.

He said: "Our main markets of North America, UK and Germany behaved miserably. In the first half, we saw a sharp decline in the US, followed in the second half by very sharp declines in the UK and Germany. It is very unusual for all these markets to give problems at the same time."

The downturn resulted in a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £201.2 million to £114.3 million in the year to December 31. The

underlying decline was exacerbated by £37.3 million of exceptional charges, the bulk of which had been flagged at the interim stage in September. Part of the charge was to cover the cost of 1,600 job cuts previously announced.

In January it emerged that the Stock Exchange had passed to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of its investigation into share dealings ahead of the September profit warning. Mr Jansen said the company had not been contacted by the DTI.

The sharp drop in profits was on the back of a small rise

in sales from £2 billion to £2.1 billion. Acquisitions contributed £156.8 million to sales and £12 million to pre-exceptional operating profits.

Mr Jansen said action was taken as soon as the downturn in the major markets had been identified. "We have accelerated our cost reduction programme, which will be largely completed by the end of the first quarter of 1996," he said. The programme is expected to reap cost benefits of about £25 million in addition to the £25 million cost savings already achieved last year.

All but one of the group's

businesses saw pre-exceptional profits fall. Plumbing, 1994's biggest profit contributor, reported a 51.6 per cent slump in post-exceptional operating profits to £24.1 million. Stripping out the impact of exceptional charges and profits fell 25.7 per cent to £37 million. Mr Jansen said the group's prospects for the current year were underpinned by its strong market positions, cost reductions and new product launches. The final dividend, due June 5, was held at 6.6p making an unchanged total for the year of 9.5p. The shares rose 1p to 204p.

Apple set for \$700m first-quarter loss

By RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

APPLE COMPUTER expects to incur a \$700 million loss in the first quarter, although its chairman said the company's problems were "fixable". As the shares plunged to a low of \$23.8, against more than \$50 last summer, Gilbert Amelio, the new chairman, gave a gloomy outlook for the next few months, with revenues and shipments substantially below last year's levels, and millions of dollars of old inventory left unsold.

Although the computer group had given warning that the current quarter's loss would be more than the \$69

million loss for the first quarter of last year, Wall Street had not expected such a large deficit. The company said that it was due to inventory write-downs and restructuring charges, which include axing about 1,300 employees earlier this year.

"I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable," said Mr Amelio. Apple would unveil its plans for recovery by early May, he added. The latest loss is a further blow to investor confidence in Apple, which suspended the previous quarter's dividend.

Barratt to build £90m land fund

By CARL MORTISHED

BARRATT Developments, the housebuilder, is raising £90 million through a rights issue to fund an increase in its land bank, aimed at raising output from 7,000 homes a year to 11,000 in the next three years.

Barratt is offering one new share for every four held at 200p each in its first cash call since 1982. Two new divisions will be established, one in Central London, another in the Thames Valley.

Announcing a 19 per cent increase in half-year profits to £19.1 million before tax, Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said that the company would continue to increase market share even in the absence of a turnaround in the housing

market. He reported net reservations up 7.5 per cent in revenue terms. Sir Lawrie, scornful of suggestions that Barratt would use the funds to takeover other housebuilders, said: "We will look at them as a route to buy land but we won't pay a premium to anyone. You should get a discount for buying in bulk."

The company sold 3,002 houses in the half year to December, 12 per cent up on the previous year, at an average price of £81,600 and increase its land bank to 18,991 units. The interim dividend of 2.75p, up 10 per cent and covered 2.5 times by earnings.

Tempus, page 28

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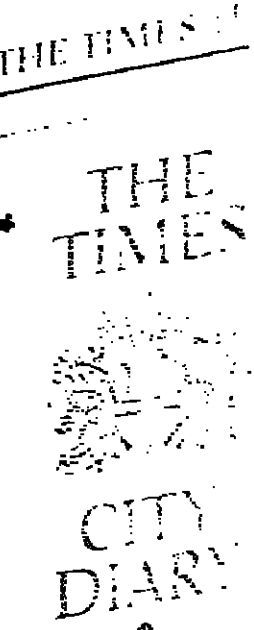
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Ladbroke shares buoyed by persistent bid talk

TALK of a bid for Ladbroke, the struggling hotel and betting group, refuses to go away. The shares put in a late spurt to finish 2p dearer at 189p as almost three million changed hands. Once again, they are perched a shade below their high for the past year, with talk of an imminent bid still doing the rounds in the Square Mile.

This latest burst of speculative buying coincides with comments from Steve Bollnabach, head of the Hilton Corporation, which owns the Hilton chain of hotels in the US. He wants the two Hilton chains merged under one roof. Ladbroke owns all the Hilton Hotels outside the US.

City speculators fear that if a bid for Ladbroke is not forthcoming soon, a major correction in the share price is on the cards. At these levels, Ladbroke is capitalised at £2.1 billion.

The rest of the equity market found the going tough. Prices were squeezed higher, but genuine retail demand was thin. Turnover fell just short of a billion shares, having been artificially bolstered by special situations.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 11.5 higher at 3,672.4, having been almost 16 points higher before the start of trading on Wall Street.

Grey-market dealings in Orange, the mobile phone operator, got off to a flying start, as expected. Offered at 235p, the top end of the range, the shares started life at 243p. After briefly touching 244p, they ended at 237p, a premium of 32p. Official trading starts on Tuesday.

Orange was floated off by its joint owners, British Aerospace, up 13p at 868p, and Hutchison Whampoa, and Hongkong, and is now valued at £2.5 billion.

Much of yesterday's demand stemmed from big institutions, including index-tracking funds looking to steal a march before the group is eventually admitted to the index. By the close of business, a total of 68.7 million shares had changed hands.

The demand for Orange took some of the shine off Vodafone, with the price losing 3 1/2p to 244 1/2p as 17 million shares changed hands. Enterprise Oil responded to a strong oil price with a rise of 19p to 442p on turnover of two million shares. The cold winter in Europe and increased tension in the Middle East has



David Yeomans, chairman of TLS, with Peter Roberts, chief executive, and Peter Busby, finance director

lifted the price of oil to about \$2 a barrel. Heavy turnover was also recorded in Iceland, the frozen food retailer, after it announced details of its share buy-back programme. The group bought back a total of 27 million shares at 150p in a move designed to boost earnings a share. This helped to boost turnover by the close to 55 million shares.

that the present management could obtain better returns on the business. But the market is waiting for Rentokil to raise its offer to around 215p a share, which may be enough to guarantee success. Rentokil rose 2 1/2p to 359p.

News came from Aegis, the media group, of the departure of 9 per cent stakeholder Omnicon. The Americans came in at around 20p in 1993 and had looked at a full bid but, citing client conflicts with Aegis, are taking their profits. Better than expected results restricted the damage to the shares to a 1p fall at 46 1/2p.

BET, IP farmer at 203p, was talking to brokers yesterday giving them a rundown of trading conditions. John Clark, chief executive, told them that its six key operating areas would achieve sales growth of 14 per cent and an 11.5 per cent rise in operating margins. BET is the target of an unwarranted £1.8 billion bid from Rentokil. Mr Clark said

ties in the housebuilding market. Its raising the money via a one-for-four rights issue at 200p. Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said he was encouraged by the increased stability of house prices. The news coincided with better than expected half year figures showing pre-tax profits £3 million up at £19.1 million. But not everyone is feeling so

confident about prospects in the building industry. Higgins & Hill reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £1.4 million to £72,000 last year. The figure was struck after a write-off of £3.5 million relating to a contract with Guy's Hospital. The shares slipped 2p to 88p.

Pilkington, Britain's biggest glassmaker, fell 8p to 198 1/2p after warning of provisions, totalling £155 million relating to the restructuring of its US automotive glass and German building products business. Almost 2,000 jobs are expected to be shed. The group also warned that trading conditions have become more difficult. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, slashed its pre-tax profits forecast for the year to March 31 by £10 million to £208 million.

A warning of a sharp fall in profits during the first half left Bullwhip 8p down at 98p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that continuing problems with the refrigeration operations would result in it making a loss.

Brokers gave a warm reception to full-year figures from Kingfisher, where pre-tax profits came in at the top end of expectations in spite of another poor performance from its B&Q chain. The price finished up 21p at 554p.

Sharp falls in profitability left Bowthorpe 10p down at 420p but failed to depress Caradon, up 1p at 204p, and Corrad, up 1p better at 320p.

TLS, the vehicle hire group, closed 4p up at record high of 80p after unveiling a rise in full year pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to £4.5 million.

At GILT EDGED: Attempts at extending Tuesday's gains failed. The market tried to go better on a number of occasions, helped by a positive response to the auction, which was 2.64 times oversubscribed and some useful US durable goods numbers. In spite of lack of demand, the Bank of England exhausted remaining supplies of the "tap" Treasury Index Linked 2 1/2 per cent 2009. In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt slipped a tick to £104 3/4 as a total of 57,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was steady at £96 3/4, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was up 1/2 at £102 1/4.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down at midday. It fell 11.92 points to 5,658.67.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent stock issues including EasyNet Group, First Infir, Fleming World Inc, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Abbot Mid Vckr, Barratt Group, and GWR US CV.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes including Tibbet & Britten, Cam Energy, Yates Bros, and others.

TEMPUS DIY needs urgent repair

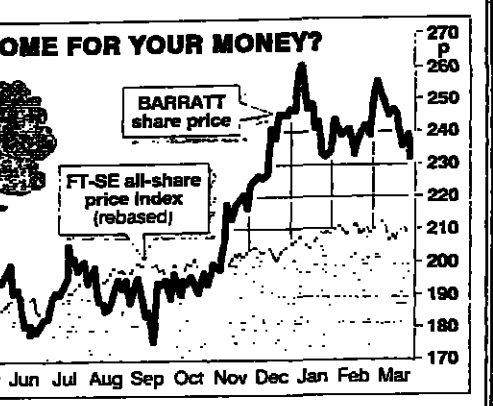
SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy's DIY skills are to be put to the test. Just as the Kingfisher boss had managed to patch up a couple of leaks, another has sprung in a once-solid business. Last year, money was pouring out of Woolworths and Comet. Now it is the turn of B&Q. However, there is a fundamental difference between the two problems. Last year, analysts were furore with their brows, questioning whether Woolworths was as redundant on the high street as wallpaper stripper in a marble hall. Losses at Comet caused some to speculate whether its problems were terminal.

The fears were overplayed and drastic action to improve appalling stock control helped the group to swing from a 12.8 per cent decline in profits before exceptional items in the first half to an 8.7 per cent rise in the second half. This year's blackspot - a 33 per cent fall in profits at B&Q comes at a tough time in the DIY market. Set against this, the group's action plan has been met with approval. Some £20 million of costs will be removed and capital expenditure will be cut in half.

Barratt

BARRATT'S cash call again raises the question of why companies choose to underwrite rights issues. The builder's fundraising was not time critical and had every chance of success given Barratt's sound finances - in essence, the company could carry on happily without an extra £90 million.

Planned openings of four B&Q warehouses will be cut from nine to five in the current year and budget cuts will replace lavish refurbishments at about 10 per cent of the cost. B&Q's performance is, however, partly dictated by the state of the DIY market where a shakeout is overdue. Unless capacity is reduced, the upside for B&Q is limited. Long overdue management action is improving fortunes elsewhere in the group and should benefit the shares but the box marked Strategy is still empty.



BET

THE PHONEY war may be over but the takeover battle between Rentokil and BET remains a curiously passionate affair.

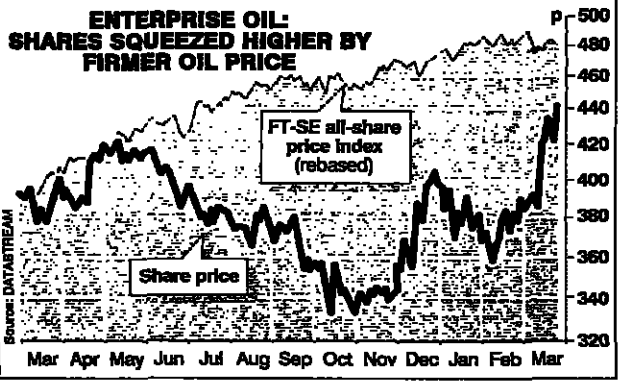
and has already ruled out the kind of scorched earth tactics that might excite a cynical share market. The odds are still on a small increase in the offer price to around 215p. However, as the bid continues to drift in Rentokil's direction, the company has the option to sit and do nothing. At this rate and if the board can keep its nerve, Rentokil may not have to bid the price at all.

BET yesterday tried to kick start its campaign for independence with a presentation extolling the virtues of its six key divisions. These were contrasted with the weaker performance of cleaning, catering and personnel, hinting for the first time that some of these businesses are destined for disposal.

Monument Oil & Gas deserves an E for effort but the company's £50 million payout to shareholders was a lot less exciting than some of the novel schemes recently floated by the company.

BET has only one major throw of the dice left, a dividend forecast for 1997. But with the company emphasising a new-found credibility, it can hardly go overboard with the forecast

spend money to build up a reserve of profit. Having found the oil, the company can become a worthy but dull dividend machine or it can spend oil revenues finding more reserves.



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, and others.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, and others.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMP Inc, Amgen, AT&T, and others.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various banks and currencies including Prime Bank Bills, Discount Market Loans, and Treasury Bills.

FT-SE VOLUMES

Table of FT-SE volumes for various sectors including ASDA, B&Q, BT, and others.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies including Dollar, Deutsche Mark, French Franc, and Swiss Franc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bull & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion Open, Low, High, and PM.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies including Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Lisbon, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, and Zurich.

Table of various stock prices and market data including Oracle, Oryx Energy, and others.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Win some, lose some

JAGUAR will go to Birmingham, thanks to an agreement reached by the Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission yesterday...

Pot du jour

ONLY foolhardy foodies would take the advice of the new Egon Ronay's Guide 1996 Oriental Restaurants...



Ronay: judging panel

JAMES CAPEL analysts are clearly great beef eaters. The winners in this fortnight's stock selection, paraded in its fortnightly newsletter...

Smoke alarm

IN THESE health conscious days, smoking has become a minority habit for all but a handful of public figures. The cigar-smoking Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke...

Self service

GARDNER Merchant, the UK's largest caterer, which packs 3,000 business-size lunch boxes for the Institute of Directors conference at the Royal Albert Hall every year...

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

Hong Kong becomes a magnet for foreign cash

Philip Bowring on British pension fund investment in the colony

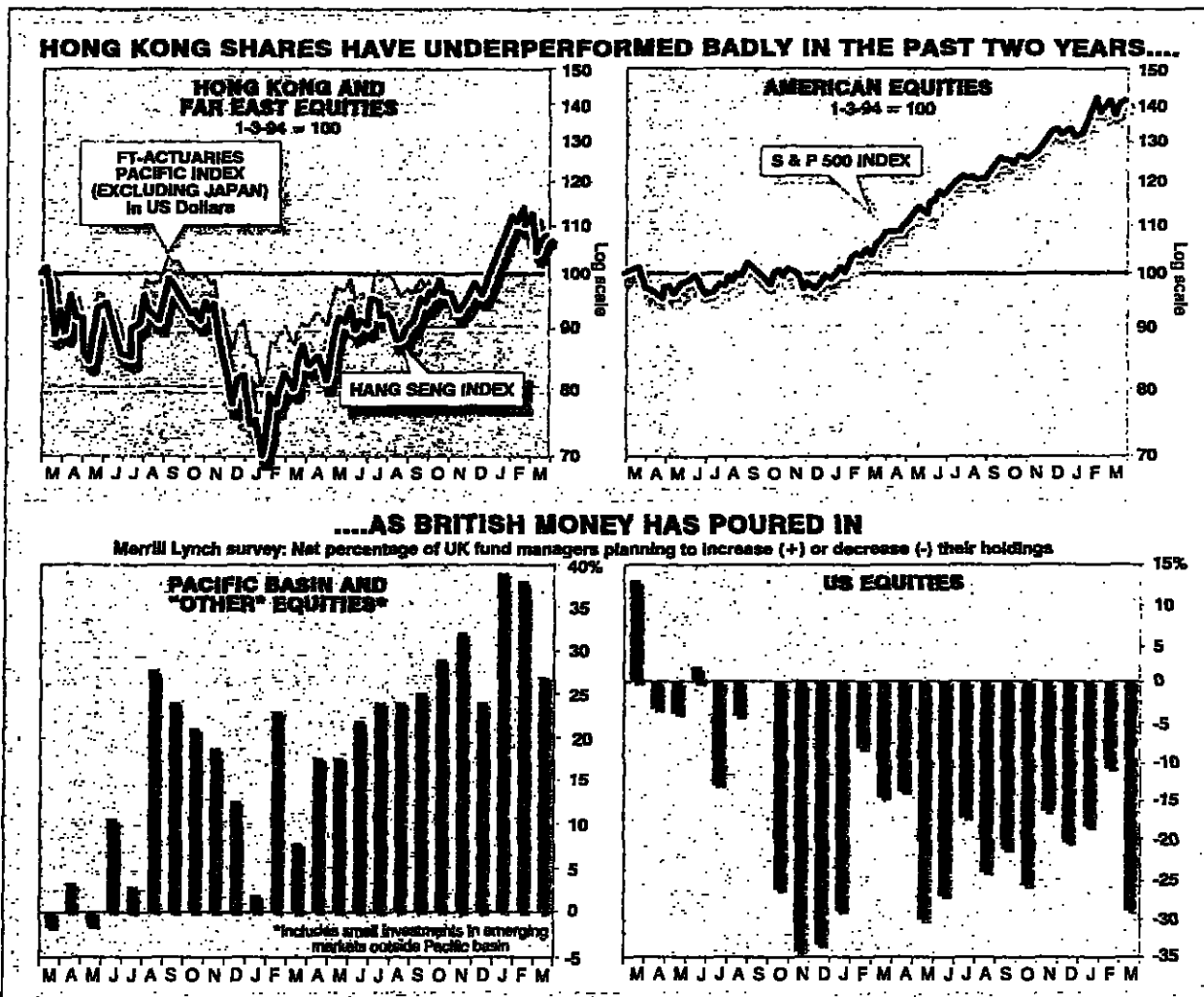
It's one of those items that really belongs in Ripley's Believe It Not. Whether future British retirees still smarting from the Robert Maxwell episode would be amused by it is debatable...

Peking's threats against Hong Kong's constitutional arrangements and Taiwan have underlined the political dangers to an economy that depends so much on international confidence and China's relations with the West rather than on what it produces...

Data from Pacific Rim and Asia ex-Japan mutual funds and anecdotal evidence indicates that the norm for such funds is to invest 35-40 per cent of assets in Hong Kong...

This bizarre fact poses questions about the judgment of highly paid management groups. Just why is Hong Kong such a magnet for foreign money? In the short term, foreign fund managers' bullish attitudes to Hong Kong contrast with the wariness of local investors facing an economic slowdown...

On a longer view, Hong Kong companies have performed well in terms of earnings growth. But presumably the fund managers have some inkling of the fact that most major Hong Kong companies owe their high levels of profitability to the oligarchical arrangements that prevail in Hong Kong's property, banking and utility sectors and to



asset-price inflation occasioned by years of negative real interest rates that have only recently ended. They may also have noticed that over the years asset-price inflation has been helped along by a weak currency. The Hong Kong dollar has fallen 50 per cent against sterling.

So why should fund managers prefer these stocks to US markets with their vast array of leading-edge global firms, high-tech leaders, and a huge domestic market for everyone or to Asian countries that have better economic growth records and prospects? There is a certain amount of self-fulfilling prophecy in the managers' behaviour in a relatively small market such as Hong Kong. A rising market attracts more funds and justifies the original position. But with foreign institutions taking a larger and larger share of the Hong Kong market, the medium-term dangers of foreign sentiment changing are serious.

Contrary to received wisdom in London, Hong Kong is not a small shareholders' paradise. That may have been the case once, but only 10 per cent of Hong Kong's population own shares directly and mutual funds are not popular with the locals. Local individuals now account, according to the HK Stock Exchange, for only 30 per cent of local turnover. Thirty per cent is directly foreign, and another 30 per cent is down local institutions, which in many cases are foreign owned and acting for foreign investors.

Pension funds, one might suppose, were investing for the long term not for fast in-and-out profit, for the benefit of their beneficiaries rather than the brokers. Other economies have infinitely better claims to being the cutting edge of the new Asia. Hong Kong is a narrowly focused market in a mature economy. It shares with Malaysia and Singapore (thanks to the foreigners) a market capitalisation to GDP ratio of well over 200 per cent - far higher than found elsewhere in the world. Unlike

whenever "emerging markets" or "Asia" become hot themes. This applies almost as much to US investors as Britons. The Americans pumped US\$6 billion into Hong Kong in 1993 and 1994 and returned with a vengeance in late 1995 after a lull. These are huge sums and entirely disproportionate to a territory of six million people. Most HK companies are primarily dependent on Hong Kong for their earnings - whatever may be the future promise of China. If China really is the draw, why the cold shoulder to China's B and H shares that provide an entrée into the real China of industrial production and growing markets, not the erstwhile China of Hong Kong. One answer fund managers

will give is that Hong Kong is an open and liquid market. But it is no bigger than Taiwan. True, it is more open to foreigners, but Singapore attracts much investment in spite of restrictions on foreign ownership of top companies that have led to foreign institutions paying huge premiums for a presence.

The price reductions achieved by regulation are nothing special for a high-tech business. Regulation is ever more interventionist and adversarial: BT cannot take ordinary management decisions about its products and prices, while competitors find it difficult to enter the market without the appropriate dispensations from OfTel. OfTel itself cannot cope. In effect, telecommunications is being run by an overburdened government bureaucracy which tells the industry what to do. We are back to square one. Uncertainty and delay are damaging the confidence of new entrants and suppressing the development and adoption of new technology. Britain's worldwide status as an innovator in telecommunications is fading fast.

The one sure-fire cure for all ills is to break up BT. Surely a formula can be arrived at which makes this acceptable to BT as well as to everyone else. Yours faithfully BILL DIXON Partner Dixon, Goodwin & Co Osbourne House Becketts Wharf Lower Teddington Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey.

Lloyd's - just expected to sanction the losses - or pay them personally if we trust that the Equitas arrangements as proposed will be adequate - and subsequently find they are not. Yours faithfully ADRIAN HILL, Executor to J. K. Hill, 8 Ebner Street, SW1.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Labour sets the agenda for a skill revolution

Philip Bassett on the Opposition's controversial training plans

Today, the Labour party will say: "We believe that government does have a responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution, and to play a role in making that happen. A Labour government will accept the responsibility which the Tories have shunned."

Bold words from the Labour party's new policy proposals on training, to be unveiled today. It will set out key proposals on training which business leaders have been eager to hear. But some traditional Labour supporters, trade union leaders, for instance, see the final, formal abandonment of a commitment to a training levy on employers who fail to train, as yet another retrograde step by new Labour. John Edmonds of the GMB general union, views the move away from the five guaranteed days training a year in the document, The Skills Revolution - Preparing Britain for the 21st Century, as a step in the wrong direction, and is understood to have made his views on known to party leaders at a private meeting. Careful work has gone on in recent weeks with sceptics, but having won support for the document from Labour's national executive yesterday, the party leadership is preparing to go public today with what some clearly view as a typical watering down of previous solid commitments.

Probably of greater importance is the criticism which says that the paper describes and analyses well the scale of the training gap facing Britain, but then puts forward a series of policy proposals which are flagrantly insufficient to meet it.

Critics see the starting point as the need to scrap the stick of the training levy in favour of the carrot of individual and enterprise-level incentives. Labour argues that current training provision in Britain is fragmented, unsuited to the modern labour market, and largely ignored. Key Labour figures have been made aware of research showing that four-fifths of companies in Britain do not train their workforces, not because they are opposed to training - but because they are operating in product

markets which simply do not need higher skill levels for profitability.

However short-term that view is, it is dominant in Britain, especially among small firms. Britain's training problem does not lie with Marks & Spencer or ICI but with the vast swathe of companies who know they can get by without training.

A training levy was meant to address just this problem by forcing companies to train, or face a fine. But the levy did not achieve that. Labour says that the levy system reinforced rigid sectoral barriers, failed to cover many employment areas altogether, was highly bureaucratic and could not match the training performance of some of Britain's key competitors. But where sectors still want to keep their boards and their levies, such as engineering construction and building, Labour says the levy will remain in place - a point which the party will say demonstrates clearly its intention to work with industry and not against it. Labour's twofold plan - tax incentives for employees to take up tripartite-funded individual learning accounts (ILAs), under which people might be able to use smart cards to buy training, together with linking companies attaining the training-based Investors in People standard - has incentives, though critics argue it dunks the deadweight problem: how do you avoid giving free government money to companies which already train, or conversely why should such companies be penalised for training if a way is found of directing help only at firms which do not train.

ILAs will be taken up mainly by sophisticated labour market participants. For its part, the Labour leadership is convinced it has found a winner with the proposals, which it is convinced will find strong favour with both business and individuals. "In five years' time," says one key new Labour adviser, "people will look back on this as a turning point. That's how important to business, the economy and to individual people our training proposals will be."

6 People will look back on this as a turning point?

Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan have several companies that are global leaders. They also have domestic consumer markets far bigger and faster growing than Hong Kong. Yet they attract only a fraction of the pension money supposedly being invested in the Asia concept. One reason is the difficulty of entry. But this is often exaggerated.

A big problem with rational asset allocation is the weighting of self-styled international industries that often omit Korea and Taiwan because they deem them insufficiently open. As a result, funds seeking to track the indices ignore major economies and pile into little ones. So many funds are more concerned with judging each other by short-term performance or against indices that they inevitably ignore altogether or seriously underweight the larger and more dynamic economies like those of Korea, even when they have active markets. Some pension funds have genuine legal difficulty with foreign exchange regulations in South Korea and Taiwan. But if choice of indices of Asia are to be so distorted, it is no wonder that the asset allocations will be too. Thus funds end up with billions worth of property and other Hong Kong companies that are nothing outside their little territory but look askance at the region's manufacturing giants.

Cultural factors are strongly in evidence too. Hong Kong has all the leading Anglo (Teutonic)-American firms of brokers and fund managers who like to deal with the familiar - that is each other. They are the ones who give Hong Kong blue-chips liquidity. Even without (or because of) a lack of control on kick-

Anatole Kaletsky is away for two weeks

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Federal Reserve 'spending too much'

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve Board has been severely criticised by the General Accounting Office, which checks on the efficiency of public bodies in America, for excessive spending, poor management and unnecessary secrecy. The GAO also recommended overhauling the Fed's structure by merging the 12 regional Federal Reserve banks and their branches.

The GAO report, the result of a two year investigation, says the central bank's control of its own spending is inadequate. Between 1988 and 1994 its operating expenses rose 50 per cent to \$2 billion, twice the rate of inflation and more than three times the average overall increase in federal government spending. While staff numbers have risen only 4 per cent to 25,745, compensation costs have soared by more than 50 per cent.

The news of the central bank's profligacy has caused annoyance among politicians on Capitol Hill who have become used to lectures from Alan Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, on the necessity of cutting government spending.

The GAO also said that a \$3.7 billion contingency fund, nearly half of it built up since Mr Greenspan became Chairman in 1988, was held by the Fed without justification. The central bank normally returns between \$10-\$24 billion to the US Treasury each year as a result of profits on its own operations. The report is a serious embarrassment for the Fed which jealously guards its independence from encroachments by politicians.

Although the GAO did not set out to criticise the way the central bank carried out its main functions of setting monetary policy and regulating the banking sector, it accused it of being unnecessarily secretive and unaccountable in the way it operated.



Motoring on: David McGibbon, financial director, left, and Bill Hughes, chairman and chief executive of Grampian Holdings yesterday

Higgs and Hill suffers as housing sector stays flat

BY MARTIN BARROW

HIGGS and HILL, the UK construction company, yesterday warned shareholders that its markets remain stubbornly flat. The first half of the current year was likely to be difficult, although an anticipated improvement in housing and property markets, together with a reorganisation of the company's construction activities, would enable progress to be made in the second half. The company

said it had managed to break even in 1995 before provisions, earning profits of just £72,000 before tax despite a 22 per cent rise in turnover to £552 million. Profits were £1.3 million in 1994.

Higgs and Hill was obliged to make exceptional provisions of £3.5 million against a contract with Guy's Hospital in London. There were also reorganisation costs of £4.2 million. Although the Guy's

Hospital provision was in line with a statement to shareholders made in December, restructuring charges have increased, reflecting a more substantial reorganisation of construction activities.

George Duncan, chairman, said: "Extraordinarily difficult trading conditions have prevailed in the construction market, in particular in the South East, for an unprecedented period. Against this back-

ground and the outlook for the market, the board has decided to restructure fundamentally its activities in this area." The two principal operations in the South East have been combined, overheads reduced and one office building is in the process of being sold.

Construction activities incurred losses of £1.14 million last year before provisions and reorganisation costs of £7.13 million, leaving a total loss of £8.3 million.

However, property contributed £2.3 million (nil) and housing, which broke even in 1994, earned £585,000. The housing division sold 405 homes, compared with 316 previously, at a slightly higher average price of £87,000, reflecting a changed product mix.

Higgs and Hill is maintaining the total dividend at 2.5p for the year, with a final payment of 1.5p due June 5. Losses were 11.9p a share, compared with earnings of 1.6p. The shares fell 2p to 88p.

BSE 'will not affect' Grampian

BY ERIC REGULY

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS, the Scottish veterinary services, transport and sporting goods group said the likely slaughter of millions of cattle due to the BSE scare will not affect its operations because most of its vaccines are for sheep.

The company wants to expand its cattle vaccine business and is launching a new bovine vaccine called BVD. But bovine products are likely to be only a small proportion of sales for some time.

The company reported a pre-tax profit of £10.5 million in the year to December 31, up 23 per cent on the comparable period, on turnover of £147 million, up 6.4 per cent. Earnings per share were 10.43p (8.73p). A final dividend of 4.3p is to be paid, making the total payout 6.1p (5.75p).

Grampian said that its transport and sporting goods divisions reported stronger results, though profits on its veterinary side declined by 6.1 per cent to £4.5 million. Lower sheep populations in Australia and New Zealand were blamed for the downturn.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Croda falls after shift in emphasis

A SHIFT out of cosmetics and toiletries cost Croda International £14.1 million and helped to cut pre-tax profits from £42.8 million to £25.3 million. Croda is now concentrating on speciality chemicals in which it spent £35.7 million on new plant and lifted sales by 11 per cent in the year to the end of December. It pulled out of cosmetics almost entirely last year, incurring the £14.1 million loss with a string of disposals.

The company, which saw a slowdown in the second half of the year, said that trading looked likely to improve this year, although it thought most of the growth would come outside Europe. The final dividend, payable July 1, was set at 6.1p. It makes a total for the year of 9.35p, up from 8.9p the previous year. Over the past three years, Croda has spent £90 million on new plant. Michael Valentine, the chairman, said: "We are exceptionally fortunate in being able to foresee expanding markets for many of our chemical products so that laying down new plant is based on confidence rather than speculation." Croda exports 61 per cent of its UK-manufactured products after a growth in sales to overseas markets of 77 per cent in four years.

TransTec in the black

TRANSTEC, the automotive products and controls company, returned to profit in 1995, earning £6.7 million before tax. In the previous year, the company incurred losses of £12.5 million after exceptional restructuring costs. A final dividend of 2p a share lifts the total to 2.2p from 1.5p, payable from earnings of 5p a share (losses of 11.4p). The shares rose 7p to 98p. Capital expenditure in 1995 was £11.2 million, including £7.3 million relating to a new laundry and machining facility in Northern Ireland.

Aer Lingus soars

AER LINGUS, the Irish national flag carrier, said yesterday it could only fulfill its potential by engaging in profitable alliances, partnerships and joint venture arrangements with other international carriers. Gary McGann, the company's chief executive, was cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the group. The airline made an overall operating profit of Ir£53.2 million in 1995, against Ir£33.1 million in 1994, and reported a net profit of Ir£15.1 million, after a loss of Ir£23.6 million a year earlier.

Rutland Trust advances

RUTLAND TRUST, the port services and corporate finance company that acquired Thamesport, the deep water container port, for £32.5 million last year, lifted 1995 pre-tax profits to £12.65 million from £9.3 million in the year. The rise includes a £2 million profit on the sale of Leasecontracts, the hire business, to General Electric Capital Corporation for £27.9 million. Adjusted earnings increased to 2.75p a share from 2.3p. The total dividend rises to 1.2p a share from 1p, with a final 0.87p due on May 24. The shares stayed at 46p.

Frederick Cooper falls

PROFITS at Frederick Cooper, the specialist coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products group, fell to £1.74 million before tax in the six months to January 31 from £3.4 million. However, the interim dividend rises to 0.85p a share from 0.8p, payable on July 1, from earnings that fell to 2.3p a share from 5.1p. The shares were unchanged at 45p yesterday. Ed Kirk, chairman, said market conditions would remain tough in the short term but raw material prices had stabilised and overhead costs were tightly controlled.

Iceland buys back shares

BY SARAH BAGNALL

ICELAND, the frozen food retailer, yesterday spent £42 million buying back its own shares. Bernard Leigh, finance director, said the move would boost the retailer's earnings per share.

The group reduced its ordinary capital base by almost 10 per cent, buying 27 million

shares at 156p. The shares closed yesterday at 155p, the same as the day before.

Mr Leigh said: "Given the low levels of interest rates, it is cheaper for us to borrow money rather than service the share base."

Last year, Iceland paid £15 million in dividends to ordi-

nary shareholders. The reduction in its capital base would have cut the bill by £1.5 million. However, Mr Leigh reiterated the company's intention to increase its dividend at a faster rate than the growth of its earnings until dividend cover has been reduced to about two and a half times.

For your company golf day... it's the business

THE SUNDAY TIMES Mees Pierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, institution, association, club, society, or group of individuals based in the British Isles, which runs a business or company golf day in which 92 or more amateur players take part.

How to participate

- All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day using the form (right) - done on the day itself, subject to conditions.
- Simply send off your completed form, together with the registration fee of £250 plus VAT on company name, prior to your golf day and we'll take care of the rest.
- The day has to be a company golf day (not a club day) and must be held on a day when you are all together (not a series of events).
- Your team of 92 players must be made up of 92 employees (not family or friends) and must be registered with the Golf Club.
- The winning company from each of the 12 regions will compete in the national final at Royal Lynton & Salcombe Golf Club in Devon, to be held on a day to be decided for a day to be decided.
- Golf days must be held after 15th September or played after 22nd September. All entries will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times 'Outstanding Golf Days' feature.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'Outstanding Golf Days' feature.
- A set of four promotional award trophies for your golf day winners.
- Complimentary copies of the award magazine for each of your golf days.
- A complimentary copy of the award magazine for each of your golf days.
- A complimentary copy of the award magazine for each of your golf days.
- A complimentary copy of the award magazine for each of your golf days.
- A complimentary copy of the award magazine for each of your golf days.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is governed by the RGA for general reference - 'Rule 14 (a), 7 BARRAGE'. A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:

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MAIDEN BRITAIN

The new supermodels who won't get out of school for less than £5,000 a day are at the forefront of the latest Brit revolution in fashion, design and photography that is changing the way the world looks. See the Magazine on Sunday

Move over, Naomi

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The top ten chairs; the London lair of Bruce Oldfield; Michael Winner's bedroom; and the radically remodelled warehouse home of a leading designer

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Shares fail to hold best levels

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
54	47	46	Alfred Dunhill	46.5	-0.5	-1.1	17.2
55	48	47	Brewery Co	47.5	-0.5	-1.0	18.5
56	49	48	Diageo	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	19.8
57	50	49	Heineken	49.5	-0.5	-1.0	21.1
58	51	50	Interbrew	50.5	-0.5	-1.0	22.4
59	52	51	Karlsberg	51.5	-0.5	-1.0	23.7
60	53	52	Orkla	52.5	-0.5	-1.0	25.0
61	54	53	Reckitt Benckiser	53.5	-0.5	-1.0	26.3
62	55	54	Tenneco	54.5	-0.5	-1.0	27.6
63	56	55	United Breweries	55.5	-0.5	-1.0	28.9
64	57	56	Wolfsberg	56.5	-0.5	-1.0	30.2
65	58	57	Yallahs	57.5	-0.5	-1.0	31.5
66	59	58	Zyngex	58.5	-0.5	-1.0	32.8
67	60	59	Beck's	59.5	-0.5	-1.0	34.1
68	61	60	Carlsberg	60.5	-0.5	-1.0	35.4
69	62	61	Heineken	61.5	-0.5	-1.0	36.7
70	63	62	Interbrew	62.5	-0.5	-1.0	38.0
71	64	63	Karlsberg	63.5	-0.5	-1.0	39.3
72	65	64	Orkla	64.5	-0.5	-1.0	40.6
73	66	65	Reckitt Benckiser	65.5	-0.5	-1.0	41.9
74	67	66	Tenneco	66.5	-0.5	-1.0	43.2
75	68	67	United Breweries	67.5	-0.5	-1.0	44.5
76	69	68	Wolfsberg	68.5	-0.5	-1.0	45.8
77	70	69	Yallahs	69.5	-0.5	-1.0	47.1
78	71	70	Zyngex	70.5	-0.5	-1.0	48.4
79	72	71	Beck's	71.5	-0.5	-1.0	49.7
80	73	72	Carlsberg	72.5	-0.5	-1.0	51.0
81	74	73	Heineken	73.5	-0.5	-1.0	52.3
82	75	74	Interbrew	74.5	-0.5	-1.0	53.6
83	76	75	Karlsberg	75.5	-0.5	-1.0	54.9
84	77	76	Orkla	76.5	-0.5	-1.0	56.2
85	78	77	Reckitt Benckiser	77.5	-0.5	-1.0	57.5
86	79	78	Tenneco	78.5	-0.5	-1.0	58.8
87	80	79	United Breweries	79.5	-0.5	-1.0	60.1
88	81	80	Wolfsberg	80.5	-0.5	-1.0	61.4
89	82	81	Yallahs	81.5	-0.5	-1.0	62.7
90	83	82	Zyngex	82.5	-0.5	-1.0	64.0
91	84	83	Beck's	83.5	-0.5	-1.0	65.3
92	85	84	Carlsberg	84.5	-0.5	-1.0	66.6
93	86	85	Heineken	85.5	-0.5	-1.0	67.9
94	87	86	Interbrew	86.5	-0.5	-1.0	69.2
95	88	87	Karlsberg	87.5	-0.5	-1.0	70.5
96	89	88	Orkla	88.5	-0.5	-1.0	71.8
97	90	89	Reckitt Benckiser	89.5	-0.5	-1.0	73.1
98	91	90	Tenneco	90.5	-0.5	-1.0	74.4
99	92	91	United Breweries	91.5	-0.5	-1.0	75.7
100	93	92	Wolfsberg	92.5	-0.5	-1.0	77.0
101	94	93	Yallahs	93.5	-0.5	-1.0	78.3
102	95	94	Zyngex	94.5	-0.5	-1.0	79.6
103	96	95	Beck's	95.5	-0.5	-1.0	80.9
104	97	96	Carlsberg	96.5	-0.5	-1.0	82.2
105	98	97	Heineken	97.5	-0.5	-1.0	83.5
106	99	98	Interbrew	98.5	-0.5	-1.0	84.8
107	100	99	Karlsberg	99.5	-0.5	-1.0	86.1
108	101	100	Orkla	100.5	-0.5	-1.0	87.4
109	102	101	Reckitt Benckiser	101.5	-0.5	-1.0	88.7
110	103	102	Tenneco	102.5	-0.5	-1.0	90.0
111	104	103	United Breweries	103.5	-0.5	-1.0	91.3
112	105	104	Wolfsberg	104.5	-0.5	-1.0	92.6
113	106	105	Yallahs	105.5	-0.5	-1.0	93.9
114	107	106	Zyngex	106.5	-0.5	-1.0	95.2
115	108	107	Beck's	107.5	-0.5	-1.0	96.5
116	109	108	Carlsberg	108.5	-0.5	-1.0	97.8
117	110	109	Heineken	109.5	-0.5	-1.0	99.1
118	111	110	Interbrew	110.5	-0.5	-1.0	100.4
119	112	111	Karlsberg	111.5	-0.5	-1.0	101.7
120	113	112	Orkla	112.5	-0.5	-1.0	103.0
121	114	113	Reckitt Benckiser	113.5	-0.5	-1.0	104.3
122	115	114	Tenneco	114.5	-0.5	-1.0	105.6
123	116	115	United Breweries	115.5	-0.5	-1.0	106.9
124	117	116	Wolfsberg	116.5	-0.5	-1.0	108.2
125	118	117	Yallahs	117.5	-0.5	-1.0	109.5
126	119	118	Zyngex	118.5	-0.5	-1.0	110.8
127	120	119	Beck's	119.5	-0.5	-1.0	112.1
128	121	120	Carlsberg	120.5	-0.5	-1.0	113.4
129	122	121	Heineken	121.5	-0.5	-1.0	114.7
130	123	122	Interbrew	122.5	-0.5	-1.0	116.0
131	124	123	Karlsberg	123.5	-0.5	-1.0	117.3
132	125	124	Orkla	124.5	-0.5	-1.0	118.6
133	126	125	Reckitt Benckiser	125.5	-0.5	-1.0	119.9
134	127	126	Tenneco	126.5	-0.5	-1.0	121.2
135	128	127	United Breweries	127.5	-0.5	-1.0	122.5
136	129	128	Wolfsberg	128.5	-0.5	-1.0	123.8
137	130	129	Yallahs	129.5	-0.5	-1.0	125.1
138	131	130	Zyngex	130.5	-0.5	-1.0	126.4
139	132	131	Beck's	131.5	-0.5	-1.0	127.7
140	133	132	Carlsberg	132.5	-0.5	-1.0	129.0
141	134	133	Heineken	133.5	-0.5	-1.0	130.3
142	135	134	Interbrew	134.5	-0.5	-1.0	131.6
143	136	135	Karlsberg	135.5	-0.5	-1.0	132.9
144	137	136	Orkla	136.5	-0.5	-1.0	134.2
145	138	137	Reckitt Benckiser	137.5	-0.5	-1.0	135.5
146	139	138	Tenneco	138.5	-0.5	-1.0	136.8
147	140	139	United Breweries	139.5	-0.5	-1.0	138.1
148	141	140	Wolfsberg	140.5	-0.5	-1.0	139.4
149	142	141	Yallahs	141.5	-0.5	-1.0	140.7
150	143	142	Zyngex	142.5	-0.5	-1.0	142.0
151	144	143	Beck's	143.5	-0.5	-1.0	143.3
152	145	144	Carlsberg	144.5	-0.5	-1.0	144.6
153	146	145	Heineken	145.5	-0.5	-1.0	145.9
154	147	146	Interbrew	146.5	-0.5	-1.0	147.2
155	148	147	Karlsberg	147.5	-0.5	-1.0	148.5
156	149	148	Orkla	148.5	-0.5	-1.0	149.8
157	150	149	Reckitt Benckiser	149.5	-0.5	-1.0	151.1
158	151	150	Tenneco	150.5	-0.5	-1.0	152.4
159	152	151	United Breweries	151.5	-0.5	-1.0	153.7
160	153	152	Wolfsberg	152.5	-0.5	-1.0	155.0
161	154	153	Yallahs	153.5	-0.5	-1.0	156.3
162	155	154	Zyngex	154.5	-0.5	-1.0	157.6
163	156	155	Beck's	155.5	-0.5	-1.0	158.9
164	157	156	Carlsberg	156.5	-0.5	-1.0	160.2
165	158	157	Heineken	157.5	-0.5	-1.0	161.5
166	159	158	Interbrew	158.5	-0.5	-1.0	162.8
167	160	159	Karlsberg	159.5	-0.5	-1.0	164.1
168	161	160	Orkla	160.5	-0.5	-1.0	165.4
169	162	161	Reckitt Benckiser	161.5	-0.5	-1.0	166.7
170	163	162	Tenneco	162.5	-0.5	-1.0	168.0
171	164	163	United Breweries	163.5	-0.5	-1.0	169.3
172	165	164	Wolfsberg	164.5	-0.5	-1.0	170.6
173	166	165	Yallahs	165.5	-0.5	-1.0	171.9
174	167	166	Zyngex	166.5	-0.5	-1.0	173.2
175	168	167	Beck's	167.5	-0.5	-1.0	174.5
176	169	168	Carlsberg	168.5	-0.5	-1.0	175.8
177	170	169	Heineken	169.5	-0.5	-1.0	177.1
178	171	170	Interbrew	170.5	-0.5	-1.0	178.4
179	172	171	Karlsberg	171.5	-0.5	-1.0	179.7
180	173	172	Orkla	172.5	-0.5	-1.0	181.0
181	174	173	Reckitt Benckiser	173.5	-0.5	-1.0	182.3
182	175	174	Tenneco	174.5	-0.5	-1.0	183.6
183	176	175	United Breweries	175.5	-0.5	-1.0	184.9
184	177	176	Wolfsberg	176.5	-0.5	-1.0	186.2
185	178	177	Yallahs	177.5	-0.5	-1.0	187.5
186	179	178	Zyngex	178.5	-0.5	-1.0	188.8
187	180	179	Beck's	179.5	-0.5	-1.0	190.1
188	181	180	Carlsberg	180.5	-0.5	-1.0	191.4
189	182	181	Heineken	181.5	-0.5	-1.0	192.7
190	183	182	Interbrew	182.5	-0.5	-1.0	194.0
191	184	183	Karlsberg	183.5	-0.5	-1.0	195.3
192	185	184	Orkla	184.5	-0.5	-1.0	196.6
193	186	185	Reckitt Benckiser	185.5	-0.5	-1.0	197.9
194	187	186	Tenneco	186.5	-0.5	-1.0	199.2
195	188	187	United Breweries	187.5	-0.5	-1.0	200.5
196	189	188	Wolfsberg	188.5	-0.5	-1.0	201.8
197	190	189	Yallahs	189.5	-0.5	-1.0	203.1
198	191	190	Zyngex	190.5	-0.5	-1.0	204.4
199	192	191	Beck's	191.5	-0.5	-1.0	205.7
200	193	192	Carlsberg	192.5	-0.5	-1.0	207.0
201	194	193	Heineken	193.5	-0.5	-1.0	208.3

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers for fund names and prices. Includes sections like 'ALLIANCE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD', 'CAUTION UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD', etc.

Advertisement for 'Hunting for Perfection' featuring a fox and a bottle of 'OLD SPECKLED HEN' Scotch Whisky. Text includes 'Excellent liquidity!', 'Famously smooth, distinctively dry - a real asset in your drinks portfolio.', and 'Brewed by Moland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.'



Could you write a screenplay with the impressive sweep of Orson Welles's classic Citizen Kane?



... or one to rival the intimacy and sophisticated wit of Woody Allen's great comedy Annie Hall?

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS



Would King Kong love to get his great hairy hands on your exciting, action-packed dialogue?



If so, enter our competition and you could soon be pitching your ideas to the big studios

Hey, kid, you want to be in movies? The Times Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break

Write yourself onto the silver screen

Just because Emma Thompson brought home an Oscar this week for her screenplay of Sense and Sensibility...

When The Times launched its Screenwriting Competition last year, the four judges uncovered more talent than they might have expected...

Norma Heyman, the independent producer of Dangerous Liaisons who has just finished work on Christopher Hampton's script of The Secret Agent...

Even last year's winner, Richard Rees - just back from a week in Hollywood, telling agents and studios about his script of The Mercenary's Tale...

As Aukin points out: 'Scenes can be anything, not necessarily dialogue. This is the movies.'



... things he already knows, or things he does not need to know. To offer some guidance to novices entering this year's competition...

things he already knows, or things he does not need to know.

To offer some guidance to novices entering this year's competition, the judges have picked two examples of screenwriting that they feel highlight what good writing should do...

What is it about this extract from Four Weddings and a Funeral...

For David Aukin, whose recent productions include Trainspotting, the scene 'marks the emotional turning point in the story.'

Heyman praises the scene for 'writing of the finest order. It manages to be both profound and accessible... economical, yet very effective and clever.'

Mel Brooks once declared that 'anybody can direct: there are only 11 good writers'.

JOE JOSEPH



Speak up, we want to hear you: Rowan Atkinson as the vicar in Four Weddings and a Funeral, the most successful British film ever

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

WALK, CHARLIE? TOM: Yes. That would be grand. CHARLES: They begin to stride. TOM: Gosh, that was some display, wasn't it - never felt like that - I mean, something vaguely similar for Jilly when I was young...

DEAD MAN WALKING

SCENE 68 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN: MATT: My Daddy took me to a bar when I was twelve and told me to pick my whiskey, so, there was all these bottles behind the bar, and I pointed up there and I said, 'I'll take that one there with the pretty turkey on it.'

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

Your chance to become a Hollywood scriptwriter

Today The Times launches the 1996 Screenwriting Competition which aims to find Britain's top filmwriting talent. This prestigious competition, now in its second year, offers a first prize of an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood...

HOW TO ENTER: Collect four of the six screenwriting tokens which will be published over the next week (taken one appears below) and send us your entry, which should be written in English, typed and double-spaced on A4 paper...

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Original film treatments only will be considered; adaptations or wholly animated films are ineligible. 2. Entries must be written in English, typed and double spaced on A4 paper with pages clearly numbered...

Advertisement for the film 'CYCLO' featuring Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Le Van Loc, and Tran Nu Yen Khe. Includes text: 'AN EXTRAORDINARY MOVIE', 'ASTOUNDING...', 'DEVASTATING... HAS TO BE SEEN...' and 'EXCLUSIVE LONDON PRESENTATION MGM SWISS CENTRE AND SELECTED CINEMAS NATIONWIDE'.

SCENE 86 - CS - MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN, CAMERA TILTING DOWN AS HE TAKES A DRAG FROM HIS CIGARETTE. SCENE 87 - CS - HELEN LOOKS LFG HELEN: What's the answer, what's it gonna be with your Mama? LUCILLE: (VO) Mattie had a hard life, but he was a good boy.

Advertisement for a concert: 'Fri 5 Apr 6.00pm Bach: St Matthew Passion Richard Hickox conductor'. Includes details about the venue (Barbican Hall) and ticket information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'THE TIME', 'An irc fo', 'CINEMA', 'S', 'THIS W', and 'HOW TO BOOK'.



FILM 1 Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new *Dead Man Walking*



FILM 2 ... while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick *Cutthroat Island*



FILM 3 Steve Martin dares to duplicate the immortal Phil Silvers, in the vulgar Hollywood remake *Sgt Bilko*



FILM 4 A wolf-dog as hero and plenty of snow, but the animated feature *Balto* doesn't add up to much

An eye for the irony, a tooth for the truth

CINEMA: Geoff Brown pays his respects to the honest, uncompromising, Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*

Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn size up each other in a New Orleans prison. Sarandon, winner of this year's Best Actress Oscar, sits brimming with naive good intentions, trying to be a friend. Penn stares back with a cocky grin, a sculpted goatee, a tight little moustache and hair you don't want to mess with. He stands convicted of killing two teenagers in *Lovers Lane* after raping the girl and stabbing her 17 times. His partner has a better lawyer and got life imprisonment, but Penn's Matthew Poncelet sits on death row. He is surly, hard-hearted, a racist who thinks Hitler went just a bit too far; not an attractive hero. But then *Dead Man Walking* is not interested in parcelling out characters and plot in the conventional Hollywood way. Inspired by Sister Helen Prejean's account of her dealings with Louisiana prisoners, Tim Robbins's powerful film faces up squarely to the conflicts and irony of capital punishment, which inflicts cruel death on those convicted of inflicting the same.

Does Poncelet have a soul to save? Sarandon's Sister Helen believes so. As part of her brief to minister to the New Orleans poor, she visits Poncelet in prison. Although Robbins's script makes visits to the murder scene, the grieving families and the chillingly clinical execution chamber, the film's heart lies in these meetings between two faces, two different worlds, variously separated by grilles, bars or Perspex.

Sarandon is infinitely subtle in her emotional responses; her big brown eyes have rarely gazed with such penetration. She makes Sister Helen no glamer saint, but a fallible human being, tainted with arrogance. She does not hide behind make-up; nor does the prison hide behind gothic shadows. Warm lighting creates an ordinary, bland environment, which packs its own

- Dead Man Walking**
Warner West End 15, 122 mins
Powerful death row drama
- Cutthroat Island**
Warner West End PG, 125 mins
Redundant and miscast pirate movie
- Sgt Bilko**
Empire, PG, 95 mins
Unwelcome spin-off from the TV classic
- Balto**
Plaza, U, 78 mins
Ineffective cartoon set in Alaska
- Dunston Checks In**
Odeon West End PG, 88 mins
Havoc with an orang-utan in a five-star hotel
- Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace**
Odeon West End 12, 92 mins
Moderate high-tech fantasy

eerie punch. As for Penn, none of his past performances matches the intensity of his work here. You might not wish to meet Poncelet in an alley, but on a cinema screen this complex scoundrel, remorse buried deep beneath hate, is a fascinating character. To some extent Poncelet is the film's own invention; Robbins (see interview below) took two real-life prisoners, one amiable, one not, and merged them. Although the fabrication chips away some of the film's status as a painful true story, it was a smart move dramatically to focus on one relationship. This confident, finely chiselled work is only Robbins's second as director.

after his mischievous political satire *Bob Roberts*. He has taken a giant stride forward. Renny Harlin, the action-movie maestro, takes a giant stride back with *Cutthroat Island*, an expensive and reckless movie that, inch for inch, probably contains more pirate clichés and gunpowder explosions than any other. It might make a slight dent on people too young to know what a good swashbuckler looks like, although even they may fret at the one-dimensional characters and the dull repetition of chases, swordfights, and debris descending in slow-motion.

The star attraction is Geena Davis, the director's wife, giving a supposed feminist twist to the genre as Morgan Adams, a feisty 17th-century lass who assumes control of her father's pirate ship in the Caribbean. Strapped into low-cut dresses, with long straggly hair and a cut across her left eyebrow, Davis literally thrusts herself forward as a tough-talking action heroine. But in doing so, her natural qualities and droll sense of comedy are quashed. Her companion in misfortune is Matthew Modine, an educated thief who joins Morgan in hunting for buried treasure. Modine's nonchalance might suit modern dramas, but in a period extravaganza like this a puff of wind could blow him away. Unfortunately it does not.

At least Frank Langella relishes the villainous role of Morgan's uncle Dawg. Most of the time, cast and crew strain with effort. Making *Cutthroat Island* used up the resources of Malta, Thailand, Jim Henson's Creature Workshop, a model unit at Pinewood Studios, the London Symphony Orchestra, and \$70 million. The production company, Carolco, is now fighting for survival. Was it worth it? Television comedy aficionados rightly regard *The Phil Silvers Show*, produced by Nat Hiken for CBS in the 1950s, as



Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn as the nun and the murderer in Tim Robbins's powerful attack on the death penalty, *Dead Man Walking*

the eighth wonder of the world. Who would dare duplicate Silvers's creation of Ernest G. Bilko, the fast-talking Master Sergeant dedicated to fleecing every cent from his platoon? The answer, in *Sgt Bilko*, is Steve Martin, last seen updating *Silas Marner* in *A Simple Twist of Fate*. His career choices grow increasingly bizarre. Where Silvers's motor pool was stocked with veteran character actors, Martin's bunch are fresh-faced youngsters, to match the intended audience. Character names are the same, although Bilko's henchman Henshaw has turned black and Barbella is female. Andy Breckman's script pilfers some of Hiken's best lines, while Martin pilfers the famous Bilko yell. The film, directed by Jonathan Lynn, may not be as dire as expectations and the trailer suggested; but no one who has seen the originals will clutch this broad, vulgar spin-off to their bosom.

From *Bilko* to *Balto*: a bland animated film from Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. The story, based at some distance on truth, is set in Alaska during a diphtheria epidemic in 1925. This lands the artists with two big problems. How do you separate one tract of snow

from another? And how do you make entertainment from the illness of children? Despite using special techniques, director Simon Wells and his team never make the Arctic landscape easy on the eye; it's like staring at a row of white handkerchiefs. As for the children, apart from one grotesque scene of coughing tots lined up in their beds, the focus rests on the animals, dogs chiefly, that ferry anti-toxins to town. *Balto*, half-dog, half-wolf, is an outcast, mocked for his mixed heritage, but the emergency boosts his self-esteem. As he finally tells the town braggart, "Since when do you need a pedigree to help someone?" This is toe-curling stuff, indifferently voiced by Kevin Bacon, Bridget Fonda and others.

Family entertainment perks up slightly with *Dunston Checks In*, a breezy comedy about an orang-utan, two kids and Rupert Everett causing mayhem in a five-star hotel. Unlike *Babe*, the pig, the orang-utan does not speak, but he blows raspberries nicely. Everett does a Terry-Thomas turn as the aristocratic poseur who uses the monkey to steal jewels; a firesome sight, although he gets the film's best line when

he tells his charge, "I have two words to say to you: medical experiment."

The real star of the film is the hotel setting, and youngsters should have reasonable fun seeing luxurious trappings trashed. Adults can amuse themselves watching Jason Alexander (from *Seinfeld*), and ungloriously pondering Faye Dunaway's age. Ken Kwapis, a TV hand, directed. If phrases such as "virtual reality" and "global interface" bring a sparkle to your eyes, then *Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace* may be just the ticket. Stick-in-the-muds who like movies to reflect concrete reality will have a harder time; although director Farhad Mann shoves enough action on the screen to stop people falling asleep.

Matt Frewer assumes the title role of the scientist's guinea pig who wants to control the world from cyberspace, while Patrick Bergin, "the Einstein of virtual reality", tries to stop him. Nothing in the plot makes much sense; what matters is the video-game spectacle of human projectiles in simulated environments, hurling one second, exploding the next. The film is silly and dishevelled, but there are worse high-tech fantasies around.

'Extremely provoking'



Every week young film fans discuss new releases...

DEAD MAN WALKING Paul Maynard, 20: This is excellent; the best film I've seen since *Schindler's List*. Atmospheric, good cinematography, and Sarandon certainly deserved her Oscar. James Danton, 18: The scenes with Sarandon and Penn were electrifying. The film is extremely provoking; it has changed my views on the death penalty. Thomas Stevens, 18: Excellent. I thought I might be irritated by the moral tone, but it was fairly convincing. Alexandra Williams, 22: Extremely good; you come out feeling emotionally battered. Tim Robbins directs really well, and allows you to make your own judgment.

LAWNMOWER MAN 2 Paul: Absolutely dire. This is pointless and ridiculous. The special effects are far from special. James: This called itself "Beyond Cyberspace", but it was actually beyond help. Even the orang-utan of *Dunston* acted better than the cast of this. Thomas: This was pretty awful. Clichés abound, and it was corny and annoying like a cheap television feature. Alexandra: It only took me a minute to realise that this was horrendous. The effects were nearly all right, but the subject matter just didn't appeal.

DUNSTON CHECKS IN Paul: I wanted to hate this — I normally hate animal films — but I enjoyed it despite myself. A lot of fun. James: This was very funny, but if it were any longer, it would have dragged. Thomas: Probably more of a kids' movie. I thought I wouldn't like it but it was fun. Not too cheesy either — more a soufle. Alexandra: This was nothing new: good family entertainment, a good cast, the usual characters.

Dead man talking

Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row

One balmy Louisiana morning 12 years ago, Sister Helen Prejean knocked on the door of a couple awaiting justice after the brutal rape and murder of their 18-year-old daughter. The nun had been counselling the girl's murderer in prison, and had come to say she was sorry for ignoring the parents' inconsolable grief.

Sister Prejean was at first welcomed in. The bereaved parents blessed her for her courage in changing sides. When she said she had not changed sides, merely seen their point of view, she was thrown out on her ear. It was a moment of truth for one of America's leading opponents of the death penalty. It was also an intensely dramatic moment — one that played a large part in bringing her story to the screen and, last Monday, to the Oscars. "Her courage in knocking on that door really grabbed me," Tim Robbins, the writer and director of *Dead Man Walking*, said recently. "That was an extraordinary act. In adapting her book I was looking for the human angle, the story and the relationships. And just when you thought you knew where they were going, she does this incredibly brave thing."

The death penalty is not Hollywood's favourite subject. Despite Robbins's clout as an infuriatingly talented polymath (he wrote, directed and starred in the political satire *Bob Roberts* four years ago) no American studio wanted to touch something as bleak as the true story of the legal killing of a murderer. One studio chief did phone to ask if the prisoner's role couldn't be rewritten to make him innocent, but Robbins's agent re-



Tim Robbins: "There are no rich people on death row"

Furthermore, he argues, capital punishment is racist and too expensive in its application. "Most people on death row are there for killing a white person but when nobodies get killed they don't push for the death penalty." He cites recent research suggesting that it costs twice as much to execute a man than to imprison him for life. For good measure, he congratulates Britain's Parliament on refusing to put the death penalty to a referendum. "You have leaders in your country," he declares. "They know what it costs a society, financially and morally, to cross the line and allow killing in its own name."

One of the few tense moments in Monday night's Oscar ceremony came as Susan Sarandon took the podium to accept her Best Actress award for playing Sister Prejean. It was not the prospect of tears that worried her audience, but of a political harangue. Sarandon and Robbins had effectively been barred from participating in Oscar night since an impromptu diatribe in 1992 on behalf of Haitian inmates.

In the event she did not even mention the death penalty, appealing instead simply for "a non-violent way to end violence". Even in the backstage press pen she spoke mainly of the joys of motherhood: known for her efforts not to let work distance her from her family, she has no films planned until her partner Robbins finishes filming a comedy this autumn. For his part, table hockey and virtual basketball are installed in his production offices so that Eva (11), Jack Henry (seven) and Miles (four) feel welcome.

GILES WHITTILL

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

LONDON
Vaudeville Theatre
May 2
● JULIAN SLADE'S musical *Salad Days* is returning to the Vaudeville, where it ran for more than 2,000 performances in the mid-1990s, in a new production directed by and starring Sherrin and featuring the comedy team of Kit and the Widow. This simple, charming story of young love and a missing piano features songs such as *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*, *It's Easy to Sing and We're Looking for a Piano*. Club members can attend discussion at the Theatre Museum with Slade and Sherrin, before seeing the evening performance. Tickets are £23.50 (the normal price for the show alone is £25). Tel 0171-330 9687, Mon to Sat (10am-6pm)

Lytic Theatre
April 11
● CLUB members can meet choreographer Dein Perry and members of his cast after the evening performance of the hit dance show *Tap Dogs*. Tickets £17.50 (normally £22.50). Tel 0171-494 5580

Playhouse Theatre
April 21
● PLAYWRIGHT Michael Cooney invites Theatre Club members to a rehearsal reading and discussion of his latest comedy, *Cash on Delivery*. Tickets £5. Tel 0171-839 4401

OLDHAM
Coliseum Theatre
April 19-May 11
● TICKETS half-price (normally £8 to £12) for all perfor-

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

manages except matinees of *Love on the Dole*. Tel 0161-624 2829

POOLE
Arts Centre
April 15
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50) to which add Bogdanov's adaptation of *The Canterbury Tales*, starring Brian Glover and Brian Cant. Tel 01202 685222

MIDDLESBROUGH
Little Theatre
April 16-18
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7) for Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Tel 01642 815181

WORCESTER
Swan Theatre
April 8
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50) to Nell Dunn's comedy, *Steaming*. Tel 01905 27322

GLENROTHES
Rothies Halls
April 11
● TICKETS £5 to £8.50 (normally £7 to £11.50) to see the harpists, singers and dancers of the Belfast Harp Orchestra. Tel 01572 611101

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL. Ring 01206 79737 with credit card details. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general enquiries call 0171-387 0673

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

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NICOLAS CAGE
BEST ACTOR

LEAVING LAS VEGAS
A MIKE FIGGIS FILM

AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE NOW



CHOICE 1 John Hannah stars in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion, Miss Julie



CHOICE 2 Final week in Plymouth for F. Murray Abraham in the new Tolstoy

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 1 Stephen Sondheim loses his wit in his latest musical Passion, now arrived in the West End



THEATRE 2 Edward Albee's early play, A Delicate Balance, makes a welcome comeback in Nottingham

LONDON

MISS JULIE: Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

COVENTRY

Opening night for Steinbeck's mighty Of Mice and Men...

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, pony rough-hounding of the Bard...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

LONG RUNNERS

Blood Brothers Phoenix (0171-4671044) Commemorative Boomer Sweeney (0171-836 8888)

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18) Over-the-hill portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and release indicated with the symbol *

OTHELLO (12)

Laura Linnemann's performance as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago...

Soppy Sondheim loses the plot

Passion Queen's Would you believe it if one of the celebrities currently being pursued by an obsessive man were to fall deeply in love with her stalker?



Eternal triangle: Helen Hobson as Clara, Maria Friedman as Fosca and Michael Ball as the hapless Giorgio

As their current London revivals emphasise, both those shows are shrewd, suspicious and pretty cynical where love is concerned...

aliments that allow her to faint at will, take regularly to her deathbed and manipulate others pretty unstopably...

Kith and break up

A Delicate Balance Playhouse, Nottingham she expresses the conflict in terms of "I want" and "They want"

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES SOCIETY OF WOMEN ARTISTS 1996 Exhibition at the Westender Gallery...

THEATRES

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VICTORIA PALACE

0171 834 3317

OPERA & BALLET

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET 0171 262 0000

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

0171 304 4000

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000

Human Rights Law Report

Court order to journalist to disclose source violated Convention

Goodwin v United Kingdom (Case No 16/1994/463/544)

Before R. Rysdahl, President and Judges R. Bernhardt, Thór Vilhjálmsson, F. Matscher, B. Walsh, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, J. De Meyer, N. Vallios, E. Palm, F. Bigl, Sir John Frelund, A. E. Rala, D. Gochnev, B. Repik, P. Jambrek, P. Kúris and U. Löhnus

Registrar H. Petzold Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney Judgment March 27 A court order requiring the applicant, a journalist, to reveal his source of information and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights held by eleven votes to seven.

Article 10 of the Convention provides: "1 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises. 2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Mr William Goodwin, a British national, was a journalist and lived in London. In August 1989 he joined the staff of The Engineer as a trainee journalist. On November that year, he was telephoned by an informant, who gave him undisclosed information about a company Tetra Ltd, to the effect that

the company were in the process of raising a £3 million loan and had financial problems as a result of an expected loss of £2.1 million for 1989 on a turnover of £20.3 million.

On November 6 and 7, Mr Goodwin called Tetra to check the facts and seek their comments on the information he had been given concerning the financial problems of the company. He subsequently prepared a draft article on the subject for publication in The Engineer.

Being of the opinion that the information originated from a draft of its confidential corporate plan which had been missing since November 1, 1989, Tetra applied for and obtained from the High Court an ex parte interim injunction to restrain Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd, publishers of The Engineer from publishing Mr Goodwin's article.

All the national newspapers and relevant journals were informed of the injunction on November 16. Later, the company obtained an order from the High Court (Mr Justice Hoffmann) (The Times November 24, 1989) requiring the applicant to disclose his notes on the ground that it was necessary "in the interests of justice" within the meaning of section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, for the source's identity to be disclosed in order to enable the company to bring proceedings against the source to recover the missing document, obtain an injunction preventing further publication or seek damages for the expenses to which they had been put.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice McCowan) (The Times December 13, 1989, [1991] 1 L.R. 1, 34 (sub nom K Ltd v Morgan Grampian (Publishers) Ltd and Others)) dismissed the appeal, finding that the necessity for the disclosure of the applicant's notes had

been established. Throughout the proceedings the applicant had refused to disclose his notes. On April 10, 1990 the High Court fined him £5,000 for contempt of court.

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights on September 27, 1990. It was declared admissible on September 7, 1993. Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement the Commission drew up a report on March 1, 1994 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 10 of the Convention (eleven votes to six).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

1 Alleged violation of article 10

The applicant complained under article 10 about the disclosure order requiring him to reveal the identity of his source and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so. It was undisputed that those measures constituted an interference with his right to freedom of expression.

A Was the interference "prescribed by law"? The impugned disclosure order and fine were "prescribed by law". Not only did the measures have a basis in national law but the law governing the imposition of the order was moreover foreseeable for the purposes of the requirement in article 10.2.

On the latter point, the Court recognised that in the area under consideration it might be difficult to frame laws with absolute precision and that some flexibility might even be desirable to enable the national courts to apply the law in the light of their assessment of what measures were necessary in the interests of justice.

The national courts' discretion in ordering disclosure was subjected to important limitations. The sole purpose for press freedom in a democratic society and the potentially chilling effect an order of source disclosure had on the exercise of that freedom, such a measure could not be compatible with article 10 of

the Convention unless it was justified by an overriding requirement in the public interest. As a matter of general principle, the "necessity" for any restriction on freedom of expression had to be convincingly established. See The Sunday Times v United Kingdom (No 2) (The Times November 27, 1991; Series A No 271, pp28-29, paragraph 50) for a statement of the major principles governing the "necessity" test.

Admittedly, it was in the first place for the national authorities to assess whether there was a "pressing social need" for the restriction and, in making their assessment, they enjoyed a certain margin of appreciation.

In the present case, however, the national margin of appreciation was circumscribed by the interest of democratic society in ensuring and maintaining a free press.

Similarly, that interest had to weigh heavily in the balance determining as to whether the restriction was proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued. In sum, limitations on the confidentiality of journalistic sources called for the most careful scrutiny by the courts.

The Courts' task, in exercising its supervisory function, was not to take the place of the national authorities but rather to review under article 10 the decisions they had taken, pursuant to their power of appreciation.

In doing the Court had to look at the interference complained of in the light of the case as a whole and determine whether the reasons adduced by the national authorities to justify it were relevant and sufficient.

(g) Courts' assessment in the particular circumstances. In the instant case, as appeared from Lord Bridge's speech in the House of Lords, Tetra were granted an order for source disclosure primarily on the ground of the threat of severe damage to their business and consequently to the livelihood of their employees, which would arise from disclosure of the information in their corporate plan while their refinancing negotiations were still continuing.

That threat, "ticking beneath them like a time bomb", as Lord Donaldson put it in the Court of Appeal, could only be defused, Lord Bridge had considered, if they could identify the source either as himself the thief of the stolen copy of the plan or as a means of identifying the thief and thus put the company in a position to institute proceedings for the recovery of the missing document.

The importance of protecting the source, Lord Bridge had concluded, was much diminished by the source's complicity, at the very least, in a gross breach of confidentiality which was not counterbalanced by any legitimate interest in publication of the information.

The justifications for the disclosure order in the present case had to be seen in the broader context of the ex parte interim injunction which had earlier been granted to the company.

All injunctions had been notified to all the national newspapers and relevant journals. The purpose of the disclosure order was to a very large extent the same as that already being achieved by the injunction, namely to prevent dissemination of the confidential information contained in the plan.

There was no doubt, according to Lord Donaldson in the Court of Appeal, that the injunction was effective in stopping dissemination of the confidential information by the press.

Tetra's creditors, customers, suppliers and competitors would not therefore come to learn of the information through the press. A vital component of the threat of damage to the company had thus already largely been neutralised by the injunction.

That being so, in so far as the disclosure order merely served to reinforce the injunction, the additional restriction on freedom of expression which it entailed was not supported by sufficient reasons to justify it under article 10.2 of the Convention.

As to the further purposes served by the disclosure order, the Court could not find that Tetra's interests in eliminating, by proceedings against the source, the residual threat of damage through

dissemination of the confidential information otherwise than by the press, in obtaining compensation and in unmasking a disloyal employee or collaborator were, even if considered cumulatively, sufficient to outweigh the vital public interest in the protection of the applicant journalist's source.

The further purposes served by the disclosure order, when measured against the standards imposed by an overriding requirement in the public interest,

in sum, there was not, in the Court's view, a reasonable relationship of proportionality between the legitimate aim pursued by the disclosure order and the means deployed to achieve that aim.

The order requiring the applicant to reveal his source and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so could not be regarded as having been "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of Tetra's rights under English law, notwithstanding the margin of appreciation available to the national authorities.

Accordingly, the Court concluded, Judges Rysdahl, Bernhardt, Thór Vilhjálmsson, Matscher, Walsh, Sir John Frelund, Rala, Gochnev, Repik, Kúris and Löhnus, that both the order requiring the applicant to reveal his source and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10.

11 Applications of article 50

A Non-pecuniary damage

The Court considered that the finding of a violation constituted adequate satisfaction for the non-pecuniary damage suffered by the applicant (unanimously).

B Costs and expenses The Court found that the sum accepted as reasonable by the UK Government was adequate in the circumstances and thus awarded the applicant £37,995.50 (VAT included) for legal costs and expenses, less the £19,300 already paid in legal aid by the Council of Europe in respect of legal fees (unanimously).

Court of Appeal

Police not immune from negligence suit

Swinney and Another v Chief Constable of Northumbria Police

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Ward Judgment March 27

Although the police as a matter of public policy were in general immune from actions for negligence in respect of their activities in the investigation and suppression of crime, that immunity could be displaced by other considerations of public policy for the protection of the public.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing the appeal of the defendant, the Chief Constable of Northumbria Police, against the decision of Mr Justice Laws on January 24, 1995, to allow the appeal of the plaintiffs, Mary Kathleen Swinney and James John Swinney, against the order of District Judge Lancaster on July 19, 1994, in Newcastle upon Tyne District Registry striking out, pursuant to Order 18, rule 1(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the plaintiffs' action for damages for personal injuries and loss suffered by them as a result of the negligence of the defendant's officers on or about April 8, 1991, in failing to keep secure confidential information relating to a crime supplied to them by the first plaintiff.

The Court of Appeal allowed an amendment to the plaintiff's statement of claim to include an allegation of breach of the duty of confidentiality by the officers.

Mr Jeremy Gompertz, QC and Mr Toby Wynne for the chief constable, Mr John Powell, QC and Mr Richard G. Craven for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that if the case on the facts as pleaded in the statement of claim, which the court had to assume were true, was found to be arguable, it had to be allowed to proceed unless the defendant established beyond peradventure

it was bound to fail. The claim alleged that the plaintiffs, wife and husband, were tenants of a public house in Northumberland. The first plaintiff received information from a confidential source, the driver of a vehicle which hit and killed a police officer on March 22, 1991, in Hedham when he tried to stop it.

That information, given to one of the defendant's officers, was recorded in a document which included the plaintiff's name. A duty of care was owed in the storage and safe keeping of the information, given in confidence, since the defendant's officers knew of the violent character of the persons allegedly involved in the crime.

The information was left in a police vehicle and stolen when the vehicle was broken into in April 1991. The information came into the hands of the alleged persons, and as a result the plaintiffs were threatened with violence and arson, and suffered psychological damage. The plaintiffs were forced to give up the tenancy of the business they had built up.

Part of the evidence before Mr Justice Laws was a copy of the stolen recorded information. It stated the first plaintiff's name, address, telephone number, and several times that her information was given in confidence and that it was not to be leaked and care was to be taken when contacting her.

The defendant's first main submission was that the claim failed to establish the necessary special relationship of proximity between the plaintiffs and the defendant's officers to give rise to a duty of care. Mr Justice Laws found that it was established.

His Lordship referred to the two main House of Lords authorities: Dorset Yacht Co Ltd v Home Office [1970] AC 1004, 1070 and Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire [1989] AC 53, 61-62. Mr Gompertz, relying on Alexandrou v Oxford [1993] 4 All ER 328, 338, submitted that to

uphold a relationship of proximity in the present case went beyond any previous situation where such a relationship had been held to exist.

His Lordship said that Mr Powell was right to submit that, at least arguably, the case fell into the Dorset Yacht category rather than the Hill category in respect of proximity, especially with the pleaded references to confidentiality and the plaintiffs being at considerable distance from the police.

Those factors were compellingly brought out by the text itself of the information stolen, with the repeated references to keep the first plaintiff's identity and information confidential.

That seemed to show that it was at least arguable that a special relationship did exist rendering the plaintiffs distinguishable from the general public as being particularly at risk. Alexandrou was arguably distinguishable, especially as there was no element of confidentiality in that case, which loomed so large in the present.

The defendant's second main submission was that, even if there was arguably a duty of care owed, the defendant had an unarguable defence because of the police's general immunity based on public policy.

His Lordship, after referring to Hill (at p63), Osman v Ferguson [1993] 4 All ER 244, 353-354 and Elgouzlou-Daf v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [1995] QB 335, 349-350, said that Lord Justice Steyn in the latter case introduced an important qualification: public policy might not apply if the Crown Prosecution Service or police voluntarily assumed responsibility.

Mr Justice Laws, referring to the fact that the law had for a long time recognised the need to protect police informants so as not to discourage them coming forward by fear of risk, said that the present was a case in which public policy, like Janus, pointed in two directions, so that a balancing exercise

had to be carried out on all the circumstances of the case.

Mr Gompertz criticised the judge's approach: there was no contact between the two arms of public policy identified by the judge. The Hill case and cases subsequent to it created a blanket immunity from liability on the police, and the only circumstance where they might be liable was in a case where they deliberately broke the public policy. That did not cover an inadvertent disclosure, as in the present case.

His Lordship could not accept those submissions. The Hill case was of the greatest importance, and there was nothing in his judgment to undermine the principle there established. That principle could not be completely divorced from the circumstances highlighted in that case, and in the Osman and Elgouzlou-Daf cases.

The police did not have a blanket immunity from liability in respect of considerations of public policy, as found by the judge, had weight; the protection of informants and their encouragement to come forward without fear of risk of their identity becoming known to suspects or associates.

Public policy had to be assessed in the present case. In the present case were the applicable considerations advanced in Hill, and on the other hand the considerations relating to the protection of informants sufficient to say all aspects of public policy were considered in the present case, it was at least arguable the general immunity did not apply.

It was also arguable on the facts pleaded that the police did assume a responsibility to the plaintiffs, at least to the first plaintiff, on confidentiality; that brought into play the exception identified in the Elgouzlou-Daf case.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Ward delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Cruces, Newcastle upon Tyne; Hay & Kilner, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Law Report March 28 1996

Only the summons can be inspected

Attorney-General v Limbrick and Others

Before Mr Justice Garland Judgment March 27

Particulars of claim and a schedule of losses annexed to a county court summons which had been transferred to the High Court were not part of the originating process and, unlike the summons, they were not required to be publicly accessible by Order 63, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Garland so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the application of the Attorney-General for an order restraining Sarah-Jane Limbrick,

Street-trading shop

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Rosenthal and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Iain Gildewell Judgment March 25

The exposing of goods for sale on a pavement outside a shop for payment within the shop was street trading for the purposes of the London Local Authorities Act 1990.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal against the decision of the London Borough of Wandsworth against the dismissal by Mr Ian Baker, Wells Street Seditary Magistrate, on July 10, 1995 of charges against Anita Rosenthal and Robert Shiff against engaging in street trading on the footways outside their shop premises without a licence, contrary to section 38(1) of the 1990 Act.

Section 21 of the 1990 Act provides: "(1) ... 'street trading' means 'the selling or exposing or the offering for sale of any article ... in the street for gain or reward.'"

Mr Clive Lewis for the council;

Tim Kelsey, John Witherow and Times Newspapers Ltd from publishing, disclosing or using material that the first defendant had written for the purposes of a High Court medical negligence action.

The action had been initiated in the county court by summons and then transferred to the High Court. The first defendant, a freelance journalist, came across the action in the central office of the Royal Courts of Justice and was handed the summons and its annexed particulars of claim and a schedule of loss. As she ordinarily did in the course of her duties she made a note, returned the documents to

the office and offered a story based on her discoveries to The Sunday Times.

Order 63, rule 4 provides: "(1) Any person shall, on payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled during office hours to search for, inspect and take a copy of any of the following documents filed in the central office, namely: ... (4) the copy of any writ, summons or other originating process."

Mr Philip Havers, QC, for the Attorney-General; Mr Andrew Caldecott, QC and Miss Caroline Addy for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said that Mr Caldecott had pointed out that a specially endorsed writ would provide as much information as the particulars of claim annexed to a county court summons.

The defendants' stance that what Miss Limbrick had been handed in the central office to inspect and copy was covered by Order 63, rule 4 was entirely reasonable. Correspondingly, the practice in the office of treating a summons and annexed particulars of claim analogously to a specially endorsed writ could not be criticised.

Whether, as a matter of law, that was correct was the fundamental issue.

His Lordship was persuaded that for the purposes of Order 63, rule 4 the originating process was the county court summons. His Lordship had to discern what was

Queen's Bench Division

Only the summons can be inspected

the process which commenced the action and that was the issue of the summons which would contain such information as had been ascertained in the case.

If the particulars of claim were squeezed into the box on the summons there would be less in the public domain than if the action had been commenced by writ, but the particulars of claim enclosed by annexed could not be regarded as constituting a one and indivisible originating process.

However, neither justice nor convenience required his Lordship to make an order pertaining to contempt. The fourth defendant did not intend to pass on the information to another newspaper and had refrained from either publishing it or making use of it pending the outcome of the proceedings.

There would be artificiality in restraining the fourth defendant from using the particulars of claim as opposed to what was on the summons and there was no mischief in allowing them to disclose what would almost inevitably have been discovered by investigation.

It was sufficient that the court had been able to define the limits of contempt in the circumstances of the case by making it clear that in a transferred county court action, only the summons was open to inspection under Order 63, rule 4.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mr Alastair Brett, Wapping.

THE TIMES

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Allied London Property Investment Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC Judgment March 8

The purpose of the powers under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary conditions subject to which planning permission had been granted, was to consider the acceptability of existing and proposed conditions and not to consider the question of the acceptability of the development as a matter of principle.

Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so held when allowing an application under section 288 of the 1990 Act by Allied London Property Investment Ltd to quash the dismissal by the Secretary of State for the Environment on September 5, 1995 of an appeal against the failure of Swale Borough Council to grant an application under section 73, planning permission to extend the time within which an application for approval of reserved matters could be made under an outline consent.

The outline planning permission had been granted on appeal on February 12, 1991 for the construction of a retail park on the Isle of Sheppey. Since that date there had been a substantial change in planning policy in relation to such permissions with environmental considerations becoming more prominent.

A lack of commercial interest in the planning permission led to applications to extend the time in which to apply for approval of reserved matters. A further year had been granted but the present application was refused on five grounds of principle.

Ms Alice Robinson for the applicant and Mr Timothy Straker for the secretary of state.

HIS LORDSHIP said that certain aspects were clear from the decision letter including a failure to set out the parameters of the decision in accordance with the criteria set out in section 73 and the Inspector had reached his conclusion that it was necessary to reassess the acceptability of the development in principle.

The applicant had submitted that the only consideration to which regard should be given under section 73(2) was the timing of the development; should it begin sooner or later? The fact that if an application were refused and no extension granted the existing period had already expired so that in practice the development permitted would not proceed did not enable considerations irrelevant to the conditions or timing of the development to be brought into play.

The secretary of state argued that the decision-maker was entitled to have regard to the result of his decision and the effect of varying a condition was that development might take place which would appear to be contrary to new policies declared since the earlier decision.

In his Lordship's judgment, the proper approach was first that the scope of the considerations arising under section 73(2) was clearly significantly more restrictive than that arising when the question of principle was at large on a normal planning application. Only the question of acceptability could be considered.

Second, the authority had therefore to consider the condition, the reason for it, its function and the degree to which it made the development acceptable. That

would in most cases inevitably involve consideration as to the relative impact on material planning considerations of adhering to the existing condition, as distinct from allowing a new condition.

Third, the section clearly required that, as a matter of construction as to its scope, no distinction was drawn between the time conditions and other conditions.

Fourth, the decision-maker had to consider the development plan to which the application was made when discharging the exercise under section 73. If the development plan had material relevance to the decision that would have legal and policy implications.

Fifth, it was plainly right that the decision-maker should not exclude from his mind the effects of his decision.

Sixth, however, the decision-maker could not manipulate the decision as to whether or not the variation of the condition was acceptable, in order to achieve purposes which would, or would not, result from the implementation of the planning permission as a matter of principle. The purpose of the relevant powers was to consider the acceptability of existing and proposed conditions; those powers could not be exercised for the ulterior purpose which was involved in considering the question of the acceptability of the development as a matter of principle.

On that basis the decision letter was clearly flawed. The Inspector had not considered the relative merits or harm of allowing the development to proceed now as distinct from the merits or harm of the development having proceeded in the recent past.

Solicitors: Kingsley Smith & Co, Chatham; Treasury Solicitor.

THE TIMES

Take two children FREE to a Tussauds attraction

The Times, in association with Tussauds Group, offers readers a chance to take two children, in April (excluding Easter 5-8 inclusive) and May, free to any of Tussauds' eight attractions saving up to £20.

Full details appeared in Saturday's Times, but the following are the attractions you can enjoy, with the amount you would save off the price of tickets for two children in brackets: Chessington World of Adventures (save £20); Alton Towers (save £20); Madame Tussauds (save £11.50); The London Planetarium (save £7.20); Warwick Castle (save £10.50); Rock Circus (save £11.90); Port Aventura, Spain (save £32); Madame Tussauds Soerenga, Holland (save £12).

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Tim Waterstone on the broad scope and high drama of a cultural chameleon's encounter with Dark Age Britain

One of the problems with reviewing a Melvyn Bragg novel is how to keep an open mind. We see him on our television screens engaging with writers as diverse as Martin Amis, Dame Barbara Cartland, Edward Albee and Tom Sharpe, so it is difficult not to build up expectations about the kind of fiction which might emerge from this cultural chameleon.

A romance of miracles and saints

CREDO By Melvyn Bragg Sept. 1995, £16.99



Bragg: elemental sensibility

Buttermere. What emerges is a gripping saga of great passion, driven by prose of furious energy. Credo is set in the final decades of the 7th century, when the warrior code of the Dark Ages was in confused conflict with the civilising influences of the early Church.

murder of a rapist nobleman who was to be her husband. There follows a lifelong struggle between Bega's vocation as a bride of Christ, and her passion for Padric. Bega's journey of spiritual uncertainty is at the core of the book, as she is charged to "live for the faith" — despite her naturally willful inclination to die for it.

The emotional pacing of the love story is well sustained against a large canvas of events and characters, some fictional, some drawn from historical accounts. Bragg seems wholly comfortable with the sweep of the period, in his own words an age "of saints, scholars, miracles, abbeys, gospels, crosses and the survival of the British".

of the world that Bragg evokes. Known for his love of the Romantics, it seems that he has found in the Dark Ages another period when landscape and inner life merged into one another. He succeeds in creating a world dominated by the elements, where the characters' spiritual anxieties find constant correspondence in the physical world around them.

prevailing fashion for pared-down prose, the headlong rush and occasional clumsiness of Bragg's writing will not be to everyone's taste. I was puzzled too by the omission of Caedmon, the first named English poet, who lived at Whitby under St Hilda: it is surely too good an opportunity to miss out the father of English poetry.

Tim Waterstone's third novel, A Passage of Lives, will be published in August by Hodder Headline.

Creating language at a stroke

Jean Aitchison GROOMING, GOSSIP AND THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE By Robin Dunbar Faber, £15.99

To be groomed by a monkey is to experience primordial emotions... the gradual surrender to another's avid fingers sliding expertly across bare skin... You begin to relax into the sheer intensity of the business. These words from the beginning of Robin Dunbar's book lead one to wonder how professors of psychology at the University of Liverpool spend their spare time.

But it soon becomes clear that this book is an attempt to pad out a smallish, interesting theory on the relationship between primate grooming and speech into a whole popularising book on the beginnings of language. Until recently, language origin was a disreputable, even forbidden subject among serious scholars. It was banned by the Linguistic Society of Paris in 1866, and in 1874 the linguist William Dwight Whitney commented: "The greater part of what is said and written upon it is mere windy talk."

This, he suggests, is "the number of people you would not feel embarrassed about joining uninvited for a drink if you happened to bump into them in a bar". It's roughly the number of living descendants an ancestral couple might have produced in hunter-gatherer societies.

It's also the number typically found in the villages of the earliest farmers, and is claimed to be the ideal maximum size for a church congregation or a fighting unit. This ISO is too many for mutual manual grooming. Talking as a replacement is not so time-consuming, and allows more than one person to be "groomed" at the same time.

As others have pointed out, and as Dunbar himself admits, it is "very easy to play the numerologist and find numbers to fit whatever size your theory requires". So he is not necessarily right in his numbers game. But he has made perhaps the first serious attempt to link the observation that language is a substitute for grooming with a possible explanation for why it came about. This then, is the core of the book, which is fleshed out with discussions and diagrams showing the relationship between brain size, group size and grooming time.



Language may have replaced manual grooming: The Lesson in the Use of the Fan (detail), Abraham Solomon (1824-62)

the Machiavellian intelligence hypothesis. Successful deception requires a "theory of mind", an ability to imagine the viewpoint of others. At one time the Machiavellian intelligence supporters were at loggerheads with the gossip-grooming proponents. But Dunbar has now accepted that the two ideas are complementary, not contradictory, since both involve an increase in sophisticated social manipulation.

Dunbar brings in further findings to back up his claims: we are naked apes, and lack the hair which makes extensive manual grooming useful. He adopts the theory (not his own) that a move to less heavily forested woodlands exposed proto-humans to extensive heat from the sun. An animal which walks upright and is naked will keep cool better, with hair retained above all on the head, the surface mainly exposed to the sun at midday.

This book then provides a useful overview of some possible language triggers. But when it comes to language itself, the author is clearly floundering, and is unaware of recent ideas — perhaps not surprising in someone who apart from his grooming-gossip work is best known for his study of the social strategies of gelada baboons. His comments on actual speech are sparse, and sometimes inaccurate, as with his brief excursion into the reconstruction of early languages.

In all, fewer than a dozen linguistics writers are mentioned, not all of them correctly spelt, and the bibliographical notes on animals which have been taught a language system are attached to the wrong chapter. Overall, the author has surrounded a kernel of interesting speculation with a wrapping of airy persiflage, some of it misleading. But he has shown that gossip about gossip is more than "mere windy talk".

Secret love and a true heroine

John Grigg FRANCES COUNTESS LLOYD GEORGE More than a Mistress By Ruth Longford Graeving, £15.99

From 1913 until the death of his first wife, Margaret, in 1941, David Lloyd George was in effect a bigamist. In the former year he pledged himself secretly to Frances Stevenson, a woman young enough to be his daughter. Indeed, part of her appeal to him was that she had known his eldest daughter, Mair, and reminded him of her in certain ways. (Mair's death in 1907 was the worst bereavement he ever suffered.)

His love for Frances was far more than the infatuation of a middle-aged man for an attractive young woman. She also made herself indispensable to him in his work. Well educated, with a classics degree from Royal Holloway College, she also mastered shorthand and typing. Having a French-Italian mother, she spoke excellent French, and so was able to interpret and translate for Lloyd George. With these attainments she became an extremely competent private secretary, and history owes her a great debt for preserving Lloyd George's papers. Before she came into his life he hardly bothered to open most of the letters he received, and kept very few.

While making her clandestine "wife", he explained that there could be no question of ending his marriage to Margaret, because divorce would destroy him as a politician. In truth he never wanted to be divorced from Margaret, who continued to be his equal partner in a sense that Frances never was. Nevertheless two years after Margaret's death he made an "honest woman" of Frances, despite the fury of some members of his family; and by accepting an earldom just before his own death in 1945 he finally made her a countess.

and Tweed, when he died in 1940, left her £500, as well as £2,000 to Frances. Ruth Longford is Jennifer's eldest child. She was 15 when her grandmother died in 1972, so she writes with the benefit of personal knowledge. Her book throws new light on a fascinating story, and has the merit — not always found when biography is written by close relations — of being critical as well as laudatory. On the debit side, the narrative is at times rather confused, and much that ought to be explained is taken for granted. Familiarity with Lloyd George's career is more or less assumed, and Frances's background is sketchily described, as is Tweed's. We do learn, however, that he was a best-selling novelist, and passages most revealing of Lloyd George and Frances (in fictitious guise) are quoted from one of his novels, Rinehard (1933).

The strangest aspect of the book concerns Frances's attitude to Jennifer. Though she seems to have yearned for a child, she was hardly the warmest of mothers, pretending even to Jennifer that she was the child of missionaries killed in China, whom she (Frances) had adopted. This myth was maintained to protect not only Lloyd George's reputation, but also evidently her own, since in the autobiography that she wrote long after Lloyd George's death she proposed to repeat it, until advised by Jennifer either to tell the truth or not mention her at all.

As a result Jennifer is not mentioned in her mother's autobiography, though it contains an admission that Frances was Lloyd George's mistress. When, late in her life, she was asked on television if she minded never having had children, she replied: "Lloyd George was my child." Anyone who knows Jennifer Longford can only marvel at the balance and serenity of her character. She is the true heroine of her daughter's book.

Here is a drowned man, "white and bloated as soggy bread". Here are rich, country-club girls, "their hard, smooth bodies like car fenders". Here is the realm of the perfect image, so simple and precise that it is almost possible to believe it always existed. These two collections of short stories provide landscapes wherein such images may be set like follies; is there any more to it than that? All literary lineages are complex, and it is facile to attempt to trace a hard and fast ancestry. But Hemingway once claimed that "all modern American literature" is out of Huck Finn: it could be argued that the modern American story is descended directly from Hemingway, with Stephen Crane and Sherwood Anderson — among others — as cousins.

No ten dollar words

Erica Wagner THE POINT By Charles D'Ambrosio Flamingo, £9.99 A STRANGER IN THIS WORLD By Kevin Canty Viking, £13.50

His shadow is clearly visible on the stories of both D'Ambrosio and Canty — particularly in those of the former. In Lyricism Potter tackles Joan for not much reason and pulls her down in the grass; in American Bullfrog, Freddie and Reginald collide: "this, in its own way, was a kind of discussion we were having, a debate". D'Ambrosio's stories — set in a Pacific North West where Boeing have laid off 60,000 workers — do not seek to explain confusion but reflect it.

But this makes misjudgment treacherous: the final image of The Point has a writing-school neatness that a more delicate, less abrasive tale, such as Jacinta, avoids. But it is Canty who most effectively deploys Hemingway's tactic, particularly in Pretty Judy, about a boy's half-unwilling and yet inescapable liaison with a mentally handicapped girl. This tale makes the reader's emotions of fascination and disgust a mirror of the boy's compulsion. Dogs risks the awkward second-person, but its compression allows it to escape contrivance, and makes immediate the beautiful bodies of dogs killed for no reason other than "moving to new apt."

In Canty's final, title story, Candy Collins, feeling disjoined from life by her husband's death, "lied herself best" when she was almost nothing". In a certain sense all the characters in these collections are strangers in the world, retreating from its randomness into the tiny, almost meaningless acts over which they have some control. In doing so, they reveal a kinship with an older literary line than might first have appeared: like Melville's Bartleby, they simply prefer not to.

After all, he loved his mother

David Pryce-Jones STALIN By Edward Radzinsky Hodder & Stoughton, £25 LIFE AND TERROR IN STALIN'S RUSSIA By Robert W. Thurston Yale, £18.50



Stalin: left no confession

One of Radzinsky's new documents is the diary of Maria Svanidze, a woman who was both the wife of Stalin's former brother-in-law and a close friend of Nadezhda's. Evidently and rightly, she anticipated arrest and wrote her diary to serve as testimony in her favour, but still it catches the various moods in the inner circle. Quick to grasp the essentials of any argument, Stalin also had an outstanding memory. None of his colleagues and rivals trusted him, but they distrusted each other more. Exploiting every opening, Stalin was intimidating. Radzinsky sees him as energised simultaneously by hot rage and cold calculation, a

master plotter sitting through the night in the Kremlin and marking death lists, but sane enough to seem mad but sane by totalitarian standards. Lust for power is the key. Stalin is held to have panicked at the German invasion in 1941, and to have hidden himself away for days on end. Radzinsky has found the calendar of his engagements and the diary of an administrative assistant which establish that Stalin was in his office for all but 48 hours of the initial period, with Politburo members and his generals. Rage was again the uppermost emotion, rage with his own mistaken assumption that Hitler would act logically. Rage and calculation turned into outright paranoia after the war. Eastern and Central Europe were now his, he had the nuclear weapon, and he prepared for the apocalyptic triumph of communism. A month before he died, he was heard to declare: "If the imperialist gentlemen feel like going to war, there is no more suitable moment for us than this." Radzinsky interprets it literally.

Finally Radzinsky traced someone by the name of Peter Logzachev, who had been on duty in the dacha at the moment of Stalin's death. From this man's story it seems to Radzinsky that Stalin would-be successors deliberately denied him medical help, and possibly even made sure that he would die. No Russian of any distinction has yet tried to argue in Stalin's favour, and it is left to a few Western historians to claim that he was not so bad. Robert W. Thurston is an example. In his considered opinion, Stalin was often at a loss, not to say powerless, influenced by others and even by public opinion. In turn Russians fought hard in the Second World War because they admired him. State Prosecutor Andrei Vyshinsky, who shouted: "Shoot the mad dogs" at the accused, was truly concerned with fine points of judicial procedure. NOT SO MANY were killed in the terror after all — plenty survived, and the more deplorable excesses were over by 1939 (those murdered in killing cycles between 1940 and 1953 for some reason need not be taken into account). Revisionism of this sort, as of Nazism, proves only lack of imagination about life in a setting without any of the usual moral assumptions. Some unhappy Russians are so terrified of the future that they are willing to be duped about the past. But an American professor has no such excuse.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Gitta Seron" and "And I" and other fragments.

Arabic text at the bottom right: "مكتبة من الأصل"

The complexities of complicity

Gitta Sereny on the shared guilt for a nation's old wrongs

Of all the events in modern history, probably none has been more exhaustively written about than the Nazis' murder of the Jews. And here now, 51 years on, is another *cri de coeur*. Daniel Jonah Goldhagen is a young assistant professor of government and social studies at Harvard (where his father, Erich, who survived the Nazi camps, is a visiting lecturer in Jewish studies). *Hitler's Willing Executioners* retains many of the characteristics of the 1994 doctoral dissertation from which it originates. But he is clever and a talented researcher even if, in parts of this passionately angry book, the talent is ill-used.

He sets out to prove that what he calls "eliminationist" anti-Semitism dominated German public thinking from at least 1845. The general view in Germany for more than a century, he

HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS
By Daniel Jonah Goldhagen
Little, Brown, £20



"Germans! Defend yourselves! Don't shop with Jews!" Photographing those who break a boycott of Jewish stores in Berlin, 1938: the pictures would later be publicly displayed

writes, was of Jews as "corrosive" "malevolent" and "incompatible with Germans". This led to the conviction that they had to be "eliminated" — in those early years preferably by conversion to Christianity.

Quotations from newspapers or public personalities of the time are carefully selected to support this thesis. There is no attempt to present comparative views. He omits the fact, for example, that the emancipation movement in Germany during the 19th century was sufficiently strong and successful that great numbers of Jews chose Germany as their refuge from the pogroms in Eastern Europe and were welcomed there.

By skimming over the liberalism of the Weimar Republic (where, incidentally a Jew, Jakob Riesser, was Vice-President of the Reichstag), he arrives at the conclusion that as the majority of Germany's Jews rejected the "benign" solution of baptism, this "eliminationist" anti-Semitism, deeply ingrained in the German personality, inevitably led to extermination.

Part II of the book deals with the German perpetrators: in occupied Eastern Europe, in the concentration camps, labour camps, and on the "death marches" at the end of the war.

Only the last part here is new, his descriptions starkly telling. Much of the rest of the material was derived from the same source as Christopher Browning's instant classic *Ordinary Men* (1992) with which he followed up a shocking collection of letters and statements in *Those Who Were The Days and God With Us* by the German writers Klee, Dressen and Riess.

Nonetheless, it is of value for Goldhagen to emphasise once more, as he does, that the murder of the Jews was not limited to the gas chambers in occupied Poland and that an enormous number of "ordinary" Germans — not the SS, but young soldiers, and policemen trained for traffic control — enthusiastically murdered Jews (by shootings) in Eastern Europe.

But in his need to prove virtually all Germans individually, uniquely monstrous he yet again fails to provide the context essential to real understanding. He barely mentions the age-old violent anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, the many thousands of virulently anti-Semitic auxiliaries the Germans recruited there, all of whom if anything outdid them in brutality and essentially enabled them to carry out the genocide. His manifest purpose to evaluate German anti-Semitism in isolation from the surrounding world is historically indefensible.

Throughout the book and the 126 pages of largely editorialising notes the author determinedly chooses the facts to suit his purpose. Could one imagine, he writes, that the Danes or Italians could have brutalised Jewish men, women and children? We don't have to imagine, for we know — as of course he did too before he asked his disingenuous question — that of all European

nations, these are precisely the two who protected their Jews.

In an imaginative paragraph — one can only say a fantasy — he paints a picture of German killers walking through the woods next to children on the way to the killing ground. With what emotions, he asks, did these men gaze, say, at an eight or twelve-year-old girl... a delicate little human being? As one reads this, one feels this is written by a man in an ivory tower who knows and understands nothing. "There were so many children: did they ever make you think of your children, of how you would feel in the position of their parents?" I asked Franz Stangl, Commandant of Treblinka. He looked astonished at my question. "No," he said after some thought. "I can't say I ever thought that way. You see... how can I explain... I rarely saw them as individuals... they were naked... running... driven with whips..."

The method of depersonalising nudity, and running *en masse*, planned by monster psychologists in Berlin, worked only too well. Far from noticing any delicate little girls, the Jews, once undressed, ceased to be human beings for these German killers, who, in their mass orgies, ceased being individuals.

Mr. Goldhagen is too intent on proving his preconceived and far too simplistic explanation for the murder

of the Jews: that they were killed, not because of Hitler's manic ideology and his extraordinary ability to convince his people that bad was good; and not because the Germans were slaves to authority and, with few exceptions, devoid of civic courage. The Jews died, he says, over and over as if repetition could make it so, because the majority of 60 million Germans wanted them dead, knew about the murders and took whatever part they could in them.

Countless historians and thinkers have shown over the past 50 years that whatever the degree of anti-Semitism in Germany, such a totalistic notion is nonsense. But Goldhagen scorns all of them. Youthfully dispensing criticism and advice as to how they could and should do better, he disregards the fundamentals of social and political analysis. "Stop referring to them as Nazis," he cries, and one senses his agony. "They were Germans, Germans, Germans." Can one write a book such as this in this degree of pain?

Worst of all, his thesis shows that he has not yet understood the truth history has proved: that murderous bigotry is not ingrained in the character of any one nation but is part of the human condition. It is not only young Germans who, as did happen after 1945, needed to be retaught humanity, but all our children, white, black, brown and yellow, need to learn this now and for evermore.

Fission reaction

Jasper Rees

PAGAN AND HER PARENTS
By Michael Arditti
Sinclair-Stevenson, £12.99



Arditti: familial subversion

MICHAEL ARDITTI'S second novel is about all sorts of things: parenthood, sexual choice, the ties of blood, religion, celebrity, prejudice, media intrusion, child abuse, the law.

Big topics all, they need a big container, and get one. The suspicion lingers that there is another thing this book is about: about 100 pages too long. The coda alone is worth 50 pages. Even by Dickensian standards, in which the swings and roundabouts of the narrative take their time to come to a standstill, that's a long goodbye.

Pagan is a six-year-old girl with no known father, a recently dead mother, a homosexual guardian (our narrator Leo) and two grandparents who have never met her. They nonetheless harbour plans to secure custody, although their own daughter, Candida has extracted a pledge from Leo never to contact them.

It turns out that Candida always resented her adoption, and spent her life nakedly subverting their petty bourgeois values (very occasionally she would also do it fully clothed). But Leo is benign, sociable, conciliatory, a well-liked television chat show host to boot, and probably too good to be true. Whatever, in his decency he can't see the harm in their request.

The saga that ensues comes with a health warning for all parents and guardians prone to panic attacks and night sweats. Pagan is separated from her one true, if not biological, parent by a Kafkaesque minefield of dread affidavits and furtive intolerance, as the frostiness between the rival carers turns into cold war, then goes nuclear as ritual allegations of child abuse are traded. And although Leo casts the grandparents' suburban-Christian morality as a species of Gothic villainy, it's the homosexual to whom the mud sticks.

This is a manifesto for minorities, and true to the genre it sometimes makes exaggerated claims. Eager to prove that we can't all be able-bodied heteros, Arditti packs Pagan's world with characters subjected to discrimination because of what they do — or can't do — with their bodies.

Leo's father is gaga: Candida's bitter brother is in a wheelchair; Candida herself, after a lifetime of hectic sex, is claimed by motor neurone disease. And, as if our cup runneth not over, Pagan's father turns out to be a transsexual.

ARDITTI'S technical ambition is to deliver a narrative which is addressed to a dead character without coming over all soppy. Initially, in order to give us a flavour of the absent mother, there is a flashback seamlessly woven into every page. Some are a tad overripe ("You were as dismissive of the Renaissance as the Renaissance"). But as the narrative breaks into a gallop, Leo's penchant for reminiscence is soon a thing of the past.

Let's ration ourselves to one topographical nippick, advising the author never to show his face in West Action, where he has chosen to relocate Wormwood Scrubs. East Action, meanwhile, can breathe a sigh of relief, and so can everyone by the end of the novel, whose shining virtue is its undemonstrative moral cleanliness. It should be required reading wherever the nuclear family is small-mindedly lauded as the one true ideal: a case of the unputdownable in pursuit of the unshakable.

And they lived unhappily ever after

Antonia Fraser
THE STUART PRINCESSES
By Alison Plowden
Alan Sutton, £17.99



Charles, James and Mary, three of Charles I's children

In order to make up for the disappointment of not being queen, she wished to reign in the hearts of all good people by the charm of her person and the real beauty of her soul". The sentiments, which have an oddly contemporary ring, were in fact those of a 17th-century princess, Henrietta Anne, sister of Charles II, better known under her pet name, Minette.

The disappointment which Minette suffered was to be slighted by her first cousin, Louis XIV, as being too young, too thin and too unimportant. In consequence she was married off to his brother, "Monsieur" Philippe Duc d'Orleans, and as "Madame" the first lady of the French court after the Queen, did indeed reign in a number of French hearts.

Nevertheless, Minette's first love and loyalty was to her brother, King Charles across the water. Minette retained a touching sense of her own destiny as an English princess. It was faithful and discreet Minette whom King Louis and King Charles used as the conduit for their clandestine negotiations which resulted in the Secret Treaty of Dover of 1670. Her premature death shortly afterwards robbed

Charles II not only of a trusted emissary but also of "my dearest sister": a woman who loved him totally and unselfishly.

Minette was by no means the exception in the Stuart dynasty in preferring her own family's interests to those of her adopted country. *The Stuart Princesses* reveals that Minette was only the most charming example of an expatriate loyalist.

After this nervous start, Mary as Princess of Orange continued to regard her position as an English princess as infinitely superior to that of a princess of Orange. Even when her father's fortunes sank lower and lower during the Civil War, Mary still wished the Dutch to give him total support. William of Orange died young, Mary's only child — the future William III — was born after his death when she

was just 19. Typically, Mary wanted the boy to be named Charles, but the Dowager Princess of Orange insisted that it was an unlucky name, and so William it was. In the course of time this young William of Orange was married to his first cousin, another Stuart princess named Mary, daughter of the future James II. Mary wept bitter tears when she was condemned — as she saw it — to leave her beloved country and friends for Holland. In vain Charles II's kindly wife, Catherine of Braganza, tried to console her, pointing out that when she made her own

bridal journey from Portugal she had never even seen her future bridegroom. "But madam," replied Mary unanswerably, "you came into England; but I am going out of England." Little did Mary know that time's revolutions would bring Mary to occupy, jointly with William, her father's English throne.

In general, Plowden deploys her extensive knowledge of Tudor and Stuart times to provide a series of skilfully written studies for those who like to read historical stories featuring real princesses rather than fairy tales. But it has to be said that most of the stories are sad ones. Sadder of all is perhaps the fate of Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who died in captivity at Carisbrooke Castle, at the age of 15.

Yet few of the arranged royal marriages proved happy. However, one did turn into a love match: that was the union of James II's daughter Elizabeth and Frederick, the Elector Palatine. This Elizabeth also bore an enormous family, most of whom survived. It is perhaps a good augury to reflect that the present Queen descends from this robust Elizabeth, rather than her more fragile cousins.

Justin Cartwright
IN EVERY FACE I MEET

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£250m Australia tourism boost

By TONY DAWE

WITH miles of open road and cars driving on the left, Australia and the tour operators which serve it have decided to target British holidaymakers eager to drive themselves as they try to maintain the boom in travel to the continent.

Self-drive holidays feature prominently for the first time in the new Bridge the World brochure to be launched in London tonight, while developing the state's roads forms the major part of a £250 million tourism investment programme announced by the Northern Territory.

"Just as Florida recognised the potential for fly-drive holidays instead of one or two-centre visits so, too, has Australia, with its miles of empty roads and vast tracts of country to explore," says Andrew Bogle, Bridge the World's marketing director. "Self-drive is a major growth



TOMORROW
A special 16-page Passport to Australia supplement will be published with *The Times*

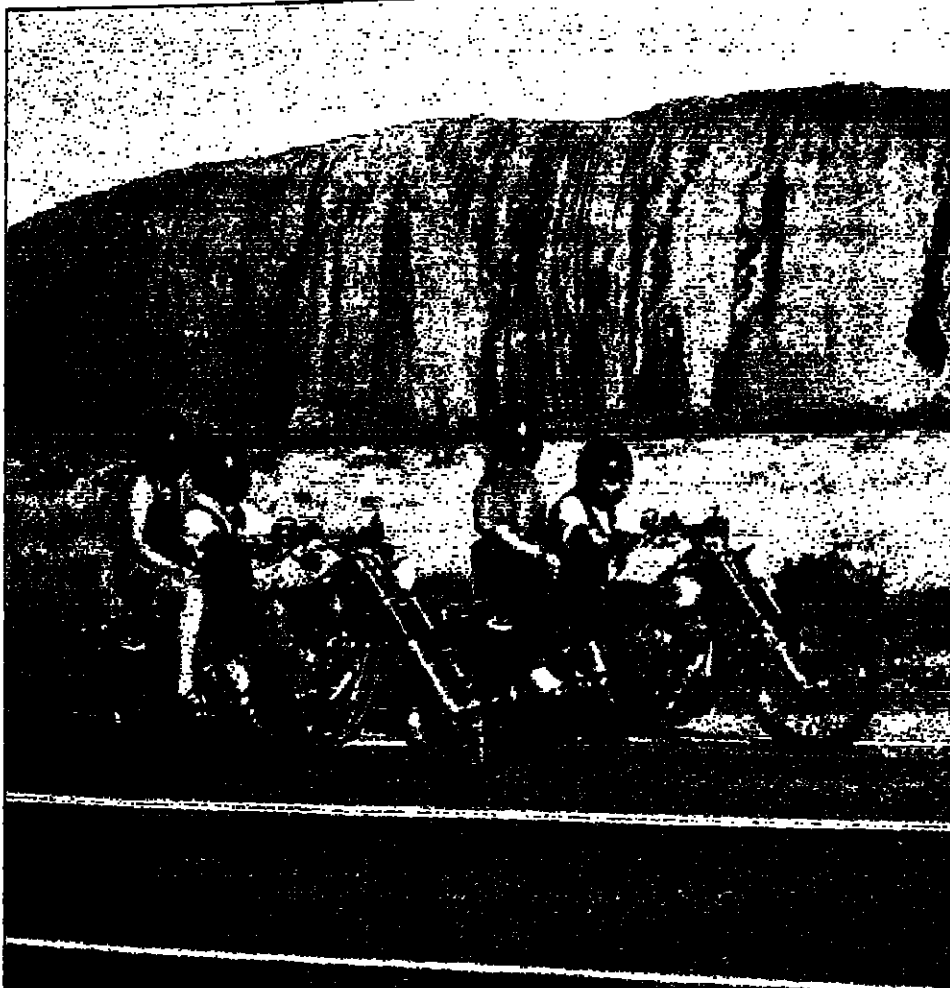
area with visitors able to discover the southern and eastern seaboard from Adelaide to Cairns.

Stephen Gregg, managing director of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, says that the internal road system

is being upgraded to allow visitors to see the state's wide open spaces and learn more about its culture and natural history. The investment programme includes providing more rest, recreation and information along the roads as well as "theming" some of them like the classic American highways. The roads earmarked for improvement include the Stuart Highway and the Mervin Loop road from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock and Kings Canyon through the West Macdonnell Ranges. Access to national parks will also be improved.

The tourism commission's target is to persuade visitors to spend longer in the state.

Britain is a vital market for Australia — 370,000 of us travelled there last year — and the campaign is aimed at consolidating that position. It will be boosted by a growth in air charter seats available to Australia next winter.



Biking by Ayers Rock: improving roads is on the Northern Territory's tourism agenda

NEWS IN BRIEF

FOR THE second year running, a regular contributor to *The Times* Travel News pages has been named Business Travel Journalist of the Year in the *Business Travel World* awards. Tony Dawe received his prize at a ceremony in London last week. David Churchill won last year's award.

MANCHESTER airport has for the first time been named best in the world in an International Air Transport Association survey of 45,000 long-haul passengers.

THE CHALET girl is coming to the ski slopes of Chile. Passage to South America (0171-602 9889), of London, is to offer British skiers fully catered chalet holidays in La Parva, 25 miles from the capital, Santiago. The first departure will be on July 23.

THE Belgian Tourist Office in the UK has formed its own tour operator, Go Belgian (0171-491 4444), to capitalise on the short-breaks market. The Channel Tunnel, the growth of Eurostar rail services and a ferry and air price war encouraged an estimated 2.5 million couples to take a continental break last year.

ERRY BARGAINS

STENA Line and Hoverspeed discounts for advanced bookings to France are due to finish this Sunday. Stena is cutting 25 to 40 per cent off published fares on its routes from Dover, Newhaven and Southampton. The offers, for travel until October 19, reduce peak crossing prices from £326 to £199 and off-peak from £218 to £159. Details: 0990 707070. Hoverspeed is offering a flat rate £99 return for crossings after April 1 for a car and five adults from Folkestone to Boulogne and £129 from Dover to Calais. Details: 01304 240241.

LE SHUTTLE is cutting 20 per cent off all 1996 crossings. Bookings made by April 30 qualify for the discount. Details: 0990 353535.

IRISH Ferries has a £49 one-way fare for a car and up to five adults on its Pembroke-Rosslare route until May 22 for Monday to Thursday travel (excluding April 3 to 7). For Friday to Sunday trips, the fare is £59. Details: 0345 171717.

P&O European Ferries is offering £29 trips to Le Havre or Cherbourg from Portsmouth, based on two people with a car and including a three-course meal and a cabin on night sailings to Le Havre. For £39 per person, the company will add a night in a hotel. Details: 0990 980555.

AMERICA'S newest airport has found that smokers know how to spend money. In the opening months at Denver International Airport, the most profitable of the vast complex's many bars was one that allowed people to smoke. It took more than \$1 million in its first ten months.

The figures make a mockery

of the controversy which arose over the presence of two smoking bars when the vast Denver International opened last year. Against the predictions of the health lobby, the Aviator's Club ("smokers welcome") on Concourse B now attracts more than 2,000 customers a day.

The bar is equipped with a

powerful ventilation system which can change the air four times an hour. There is none of the fug that afflicts, say, the smoking carriages of British Rail trains. The Aviator's Club is also kitted out with leather chairs and a generous supply of ashtrays. It offers smokers

a guilt-free environment with the easy companionship of fellow devotees of the weed. The faces of those inside tend to reflect a mixture of defiance and relief.

Thirty per cent of American domestic air travellers smoke,

while the figure for international passengers is 40 per cent. "Travelling on an airline is a stressful situation. They need to light up," David Mostellar, owner of the Aviator's Club, said. "When you walked around the airport you saw things for the handicapped, the elderly, special

rooms for kids... They had all that figured out, but they were not addressing the needs of one-third of the people who go through the airport."

The very size of Denver International surely adds to passengers' anxiety. It is no place for tight connections. For transit passengers, the smoking bar can offer the only

friendly environment on a 12-hour journey. Mr Mostellar has proposed opening more smoking bars at Denver, and at other US airports, where anti-smoking regulations (as, for instance, at New York's JFK) are rigorously applied and can lead to scenes of tense non-comprehension by foreign travellers.

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Britain's travellers are upwardly mobile

THE WAY Britain takes a holiday is undergoing one of its periodic upheavals. The first signs appeared a few months ago when the number of customers booking a foreign package holiday fell sharply. Many in the industry assumed this would be temporary, something that could be cured by cutting the number of holidays offered.

It refused to believe that the two-week family package had had its day. But it is now clear that the wealthy, independent and more demanding are once again setting a trend that will inevitably trickle down the social pyramid.

In the short-term, the number of people taking foreign package holidays will continue to fall, particularly at the bottom end of the market. Those who do travel abroad, however, will demand ever higher standards, rather than lower prices. They will refuse to be cajoled into early booking but will follow the continental pattern of deciding at the last moment where to go. They will travel further and stay for shorter periods while spending just as much as, if not more than, they did before.



The Travel Business HARVEY ELLIOTT

Figures compiled by the British travel trade show that bookings for European package holidays are 20 per cent lower than they were this time last year. And, the experts say, by the end of the summer only eight million people will have taken a package holiday this year, down two million from 1995.

However, while the Mediterranean has slumped, there has been a rise in expensive long-haul holidays. The use of business class and in expensive villas, castles and hotels. The statistics were brought to life for me last weekend.

During the outward journey to St Malo and the return from Caen, the Britany Ferries ship was comfortably half full with couples who preferred to eat in the ship's best, and expensive, restaurant. Most were staying for two nights in chateaux rather than in cheap hotels or on campsites. On the car decks, Range Rovers were more in evidence than Ford Fiats.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

- HOLIDAYS**
- FOLLOW** the Queen to Poland at the invitation of Euroview, which is organising nine-day tours this summer, including Krakow, the Tatra Mountains and Auschwitz for £439 a person, including coach and ferry travel, bed and breakfast and some meals. Details: 01362 698667.
 - EASTER** cruises through Greek islands including Mykonos are available from £499 a person for a week from Seafarer. Departures on April 5. Details: 0171-234 0500.
 - HAWAII** for a week over Easter for £685 a person, including return scheduled flights and hotel accommodation, is available from Jetset. Details: 0990 555757.
 - THOMSON** still has Easter week stilling holidays available in France and Austria from £329 a person, with flights from Garwick on Easter Sunday. Details: 0171-707 9000.
 - POST-EASTER** savings in Kenya are available from Tropical Places with a fortnight at an all-inclusive beach club in a marine national park for £699 with flights from Garwick on April 21 and 28. Details: 01342 825123.
 - SAVINGS** of more than £100 a person are available from Kuoni for hotel holidays in Grenada, with prices starting at £449 for a week, with flights from Garwick on April 17 and 24. Details: 01306 742222.
 - SAVINGS** of £200 a week on a luxury villa in Provence and £50 discounts on mid-July holidays are among the offers from Drive France. Details: 0181-395 8888.



A NEW monthly column supplied the worldwide security and detection agency.

HIGH RISK

ONLY essential travel is recommended in Guatemala. In the capital, Guatemala City, there are some four kidnappings and ten car thefts a day, despite a heavy troop presence. The situation may improve in future, however, as a temporary ceasefire has been announced by the country's three major guerrilla groups.

Columbia is also considered a high-risk area, with the National Liberation Army (ELN) holding hostage a Briton, a Dane and a German, all reportedly alive and well. The rural-based ELN periodically kidnaps foreign employees of large corporations and demands sizeable ransoms.

Iran is also considered a high-risk area, with the National Liberation Army (ELN) holding hostage a Briton, a Dane and a German, all reportedly alive and well. The rural-based ELN periodically kidnaps foreign employees of large corporations and demands sizeable ransoms.

In Iran, tension has been increased by accusations from the US and elsewhere that Iran is supporting the suicide bombers in Israel. In Gaza, Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, is believed to have been responsible for three of the recent bombings. Travelers to Israel would be well advised to wait until after the elections on May 29, and to avoid public transport.

The risk to travellers in the Indian-ruled area of Kashmir is high, with increasing conflict between police and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), while two recent bombs in Lahore underline the dangers of travelling in Pakistan.

In Nigeria ethnic fighting continues and disease, especially meningitis, is a serious risk. The World Health Organisation also notes deadly contagious diseases in the Sahel region of Zaire. Travel in Rwanda is not recommended either, with Hutu rebels involved in recent showings.

Mozambique is considered high risk following a riot by unemployed former soldiers there on March 19.

EXTREME RISK

MILITANT groups pose a constant threat in Algeria, where non-essential travel is not advised. The GIA (Armed Islamic Group) recently exploded a vehicle bomb in Beja, and there has been shooting in the Hassi Messoud oil region and in Algiers.

Also dangerous is Sri Lanka, with a continuing threat from the Tamil Tigers. 300 of whom ambushed an army unit last weekend. Somalia has seen an increased number of kidnappings — and in the absence of proper government or police, more are likely.

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Football fever hits tour firms

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

FOOTBALL fans planning to stay at home to watch Euro 96 — the European championship to be played at grounds across England in June — were last night blamed by tour operators for triggering a new holiday price war.

Those with no interest in soccer, however, could benefit by taking advantage of half-price packages available throughout the tournament. Tens of thousands of early summer holidays, which tour operators had hoped to sell at the full brochure price, will now be on sale at discounts of up to 50 per cent.

The first tour operator to move was Cosmos, the fourth biggest, which still has 30,000 unsold holidays in June. "We were not prepared to be left with unsold holidays at the last moment" said Roger Corkhill, managing director.

"When we looked at our position in June we decided to make the discounts available," Noel Josephides, of Sunvil Holidays, said. "There is no doubt that the forthcoming European championship has affected the lower end of the market and that creeps up through the entire spectrum."

Although June is especially bad, the normal booking rhythm is just not there at all this year. The Mediterranean is between 23 and 24 per cent down on this time last year although many long-haul destinations are still selling well.

Cosmos has cut the price of holidays in hotels featured in its Summer Sun, Greece, Turkey and Florida brochures and has also discounted packages to more exotic destinations such as Mexico, China and the Caribbean.

A holiday for a family of four in the Salou Pacific Apartments on the Costa Dorada from June 18 — the day England play Holland at Wembley — will now cost £456 for 14 nights compared with the brochure price of £997. Other reductions are available at nearly 140 hotels and apartments in 27 destinations.

Peter Rothwell, managing director of Airtours, said: "June is a real problem but it would be disappointing to see a really big tour operator such as us not holding our nerves. There is almost certainly going to be discounting among smaller companies."

Tour operators generally have reduced the number of holidays on sale throughout the summer by about 15 per cent in the hope that the remaining eight million can be sold at or near full price.

"The question now is whether that is going to be enough" said Mr Corkhill. "Demand remains stagnant and there is no indication that things will get any better."

For the whole of the summer about five million holidays have been sold leaving some three million on agents shelves. August has sold well and tour operators are confident that they will be able to sell all those available during the school holiday peak. But the doubts remain.

France slips in caravan league

By STEVE KEENAN

BRITAIN'S caravan holiday-makers are avoiding France to take the high road to other European destinations this summer. Camping operators are slashing prices as sales to France continue to trail 30 per cent below the same period last year.

In 1995, traditional enclaves such as Brittany, the Dordogne and the Vendée dominated the list of top holiday spots for 40,000 families who booked their holiday abroad with The Caravan Club.

In total, 18 of the 20 most popular destinations were in France, with French caravan sites filling the top seven places. But bookings so far in 1996 show only one French site in the top five. Royan in Charente-Maritime, which has held on to the No. 1 slot last year.

A site in Holland has leapt into 2nd place, while other new favourites include Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy.

The slump in demand for France reflects a fall of 30 per cent in all holidays to the country this year. And people are travelling for shorter breaks, said Arlene Spicer, product manager for the Caravan Club's travel service.

"The annual two-to-three week holiday has become less popular. Members are taking shorter breaks, perhaps two or three times a year, to destinations other than France."

Two caravan sites in Ireland and two in Spain feature in the 1996 top ten, with two in Italy and one in Germany also making the top 20.

Top ten caravan sites so far for 1996:

1. Royan, Charente-Maritime, France
2. Rijnsburg, Holland
3. Co Kerry, Ireland
4. Costa Brava, Spain
5. Noya, northern Spain
6. Le Pas Oupon, Vendée, France
7. Co Wicklow, Ireland
8. Camping du Bohat, Brittany, France
9. Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, France
10. Atlantic Coast, France.



Aung San Suu Kyi: champion of the democracy movement and Nobel Peace Prize winner

Visitors urged to boycott Burma

TOURISTS were yesterday urged to boycott Burma in protest at the ruling military junta's abuse of human rights. Harvey Elliott writes.

Labour's shadow foreign minister Derek Fatchett described the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which had designated 1996 as Visit Burma Year as "evil".

"The regime is clearly one of the worst in the world. The development of the tourist industry has been at a price to the local community which every decent person would regard as unacceptable."

But most are convinced they should not become involved. "We do not get involved in politics," said Alan Flook, secretary general of the Federation of Tour Operators. "Members of the public must make up their own minds where they want to go."

About 2,000 Britons visited Burma last year out of a total of 95,600 foreign tourists.

Thousands of ordinary people are being forcibly removed from their homes to clean up tourist sites or to make way for new developments, it claims.

Yvette Mahon, co-ordinator of the group said: "By visiting Burma now people are lending legitimacy to a cruel and greedy military dictatorship."

The 38 British tour operators who organise visits to Burma were also urged to drop it from their brochures, or at least to explain to potential customers what was happening in the country at another meeting held yesterday by Tourism Concern.

But most are convinced they should not become involved. "We do not get involved in politics," said Alan Flook, secretary general of the Federation of Tour Operators. "Members of the public must make up their own minds where they want to go."

About 2,000 Britons visited Burma last year out of a total of 95,600 foreign tourists.

Kenya spreads its attractions

By TONY DAWE

A NEW plan to encourage tourist development to spread throughout Kenya beyond the most popular national parks and short strips of coastline was announced yesterday.

David Western, director of Kenya Wildlife Service, told a meeting in London that "spreading the load" is vital if the country's landscape and animal life are to survive the continuing growth in tourism.

Travel companies are to be encouraged to be more imaginative in the choice of tours they offer while the service is negotiating with private landowners in lesser-known areas to persuade them to provide new lodges and tented camps for visitors.

Around 680,000 tourists went to Kenya last year, with four out of five going to see the wildlife, and as the figures increase officials warn that the principal national parks can comfortably handle only 750,000 visitors a year.

"The key word is diversity, whether tourists are interested in wildlife, landscape, culture or history," Dr Western said. Most tourists think of the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru as the obvious national parks to visit on safari and want to see "the big five" animals (elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo and rhinoceros).

"But Kenya has far more to offer with 34 parks and reserves including six marine ones and they contain only 10 per cent of the country's total wildlife," Dr Western added.

"For example, the Central Highlands, with 1,000ft waterfalls, contains the bongo, a rare forest antelope, as well as giant forest hogs and a wealth of elephants. The tropical Kakamega Forest is home to many rare primates, butterflies and birds and Hell's Gate, only an hour from Nairobi, offers a vast geological amphitheatre and lush gorges."

The service acts as the custodian of all wildlife in the country, as well as managing the parks and reserves, and ploughs all the money raised from tourism back into conservation. Through a newly created tourism department, it also meets landowners and helps them to find the funds and form legal associations to build tented camps and ecotourist lodges.

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Scotland indebted to Stillie's resistance

By our sports staff

SIMON DONNELLY, the Celtic forward whose goal on Tuesday night earned Scotland a place in the semi-finals of the European under-21 championship, yesterday singled out the team's goalkeeper, Derek Stillie, as playing the crucial role in the dramatic victory at Easter Road.

After Donnelly's 86th-minute strike, Hungary hurled a mass of players forward in search of a decisive away goal, creating a chance for Krisztian Lisztes that was repelled in spectacular fashion by Stillie, the Aberdeen goalkeeper. "It was probably the best save I have ever seen," Donnelly said. "They really went for it but we managed to hang on and we all owe Derek a big thank you."

The save was made all the sweeter for Stillie after his experience in the first leg in Budapest, when he was pelted with tomatoes as the home supporters celebrated a 2-1 win. Donnelly's goal on Tuesday ahead on the night and 4-3 up on aggregate.

"It was the best save I've made in my career so far," Stillie said. "I had to push Scott Marshall out of the way when the players lined up the shot and thankfully I just managed to get my hand to the ball and stop it on the line."

Scotland had been made to battle all the way after Gabor Egresy had extended the visitors' first-leg advantage in the first half. That they succeeded was a testament to their determination, a quality that left their coach, Tommy Craig, almost breathless with excitement and admiration.

"Words almost fail me," he said. "I've got to say I had almost given up hope of us getting a goal when it was I-1 with a few minutes to go but I should have known better where this team is concerned. We didn't play our most fluent football but we ground out a

result against a very good Hungary side, who hadn't lost away from home in their group.

"We are in the last four for the second time in four years and I don't see why we can't go all the way. The further you go the harder it gets obviously but this squad keeps meeting challenges."

His confidence is founded on a record that includes eight victories in their past nine championship games, the sort of form that will send them to the finals tournament — to be held in Spain or the Czech Republic in May — in optimistic mood.

Donnelly matched Craig's enthusiasm. "I don't see why we shouldn't go all the way in the tournament," he said. "We have put a tremendous run together as a squad and even when we don't play to our best, as happened against Hungary, we still seem to pull out a result."

"We certainly won't fear anyone in the last four and it is an end to the season which we will all be looking forward to."

"When we made it 2-1 I was thinking we would be going into extra time but then the chance came along and my shot beat the keeper. Scoring a late winner to take your team through is the kind of thing you dream about and it is probably the most important goal of my career so far."

His goal came two minutes after Jim Hamilton, of Dundee, a substitute, had made the score 2-1. Lajos Szucs, the Hungary goalkeeper, had threatened to make it a frustrating night with a series of second-half saves after Christian Dailly, of Dundee United, had given Scotland hope with an equaliser just before the break.

France Under-21s qualified for both the semi-finals and the Olympic tournament by crushing Germany 4-1 in Metz.



Customers enjoy the conviviality of Football Football, where George Cohen's 1966 World Cup final shirt adorns one of the showcases

Dining out on a slice of nostalgia

Former professional footballers running licensed premises? Nothing unusual about that, surely. However, the involvement of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), the players' union, in Football Football, a new theme restaurant in Haymarket, in central London, marks the entry of the footballer-turned-restaurantier into a wider world.

Football's answer to Planet Hollywood and the Hard Rock Café was conceived when Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the PFA, mentioned to Bobby Keetch, the entrepreneur and former Fulham defender, that considerable stocks of memorabilia were being built up. What was to be done with it all?

Rejecting a static museum-style presentation, Keetch and Terry McQuade, formerly with Millwall, put together plans for a high-profile food, drink and entertainment venue. As the name suggests, Football Football is not to be confused with American-style sports bars. "In America, there are four equal sports," Keetch said. "We went for football only, because it's our most popular sport by a long way. We want this to be a natural forum for all sorts of football occasions, and so far we've had a phenomenal response."

Football memorabilia go on display in London's latest theme restaurant. Nick Szczepanik reports

Inquiries have been received from Madrid, Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro about the possibility of Football Football franchises. "This, for us, not only celebrates football, but also gives us an income and a higher profile," Brian Marwood, the commercial director of the PFA, said. "People are happy to take money from football, but any profits from the PFA's involvement will be returned into the game at all levels — youth training, helping former players, even bailing out clubs that can't pay wages."

Marwood also hopes that Football Football will provide an overdue point of contact between players and supporters. The PFA connection should guarantee regular appearances by leading personalities from the sport. "What, then, will those supporters experience? For one thing, no parochial set-pieces celebrating Arsenal or Manchester United — or Crewe Alexandra or Rochdale, for that matter. Football is bigger than individual clubs," Keetch said. "We won't

be selling their shirts or merchandising; we are selling a bigger concept, international and themed around the major competitions."

Not surprisingly, will there be live televised matches. "We are not in an American situation," Keetch said. "People there can watch events in the company of rivals and there will be no trouble. Here, things are different."

In other words, any "laddish" threat to the desired family atmosphere is definitely to be discouraged. The customer will enter through a players' tunnel, to the roar of a canned crowd and the sound of studs. After ordering from a menu that includes dishes recommended by well-known gourmets such as Lee Sharpe and Keith Gillespie (George Best, who will be a permanent animatronic presence, endorses a cocktail), he or she will have no shortage of things to look at while waiting.

Despite the absence of live coverage, a selection of memorable football moments will run continuously on 34 screens, and the memorabilia are awe-inspiring. If Geoff Hurst's 1966 World

Cup winners' medal is not sufficient, then material donated by Best, Eusebio and Alfredo di Stefano should be.

An upstairs mezzanine dubbed "The Fifa Room" even includes the chair in which Joao Havelange, the president of the sport's world governing body, rubber-stamped some of the innovations that have made the game what it is today — the penalty shoot-out, for example, and the Diadora League's kick-in experiment.

The sense of a shrine to football is heightened by a stained glass window depicting the 1966 England team; Hollywood-style footprints of players in concrete add a touch of showbiz. Keetch has no doubts that Football Football will be a success, both as a place of entertainment for the customer, casual or committed, and an enterprise to boost the PFA's finances and profile.

"The PFA says to its members: 'Here is something for all of you that you can be proud of,'" he said. "Players will want to come, and will see it as a way to help to prevent the poor from going to the wall. I believe in the PFA. We want to boost the image of the soccer pro, show that footballers are willing to put something back into the game."

IN BRIEF

White fails to halt decline in fortune

JIMMY WHITE found no release from the worst crisis of confidence in his career as he was beaten 6-3 by Ken Doherty in the first round of the Irish snooker Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare yesterday. (Phil Yates writes).

White, in serious danger of relinquishing his place in the game's top 16, was hoping to use the lucrative invitation event as a stage to find form before the Embassy world championship next month. But instead he saw Doherty threaten a whitewash as he built a 5-0 lead.

Hole truth

Golf: Bernard Gallacher, the former Ryder Cup captain, and his 18-year-old son, Jamie, were beaten in the second round of the Sunningdale. Foursumes yesterday.

The Gallachers were locked in a fluctuating match against Sunningdale members Ian Campbell and Mark Roberts that was only settled in favour of Campbell and Roberts on the last green when Jamie Gallacher saw his putt hit the back of the hole.

Botha banned

Boxing: The International Boxing Federation's decision to allow Frans Botha, of South Africa, to keep his heavyweight title after testing positive for steroids was overturned by a judge in Newark, New Jersey yesterday. The judgment also ordered that Axel Schulz, of Germany, should box Michael Moorer for the title.

Nielsen blow

Badminton: Anders Nielsen, the English national champion, seems certain to miss out on a place in the Olympic Games. Nielsen has cysts in both knees that will require an operation next month.

Brown's feat

Athletics: Sandra Brown, who last year ran from John O'Groat's to Land's End, yesterday completed 1,000 miles on a track in Australia. She took 14 days 10 hours 27 minutes, including time for sleeping.

First

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FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): San Antonio 95 New Jersey 88; Utah 103 Dallas 96; Portland 94 Philadelphia 77; Atlanta 114 Toronto 111; Washington 90 Cleveland 82; Detroit 88 Vancouver 75; Indiana 83 Boston 96; LA Lakers 113 Orlando 81; New York 88 Houston 74; Charlotte 101 Denver 112; Chicago 102 Sacramento 90; Seattle 114 Golden State 102; Clippers 103 Milwaukee 97.

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's world championship Singles: Group A: P. Maitavou (Fiji) bt J. Rivers (Arg) 25-18; A. Kooch (Eng) bt N. Kennedy (NZ) 25-10; D. Fowler (Ken) bt T. Muthi (Tha) 25-9; Group B: R. Batsey

CRICKET

One-day International
West Indies v New Zealand
KINGSTON (West Indies won toss): West Indies beat New Zealand by one wicket

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final, second leg: Scotland 1-1 (penalty shoot-out) 4-3 on aggregate; England 1-1 (penalty shoot-out) 4-3 on aggregate.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather	Last snow	
AUSTRIA Oberurgl 20	90	good	heavy	won	5
FRANCE Les Arcs 55	185	fair	heavy	rain	7
FRANCE Avoriaz 110	150	good	varied	won	-2
CHAMONIX 30	225	good	powder	won	5
MAGGIORE 0	115	good	heavy	won	6
Tignes 110	190	good	heavy	won	-1
SWITZERLAND Arsa 40	40	fair	poor	poor	0
GRINDELWALD 5	60	fair	heavy	poor	2
Verbier 20	170	good	varied	fair	2
Wengen 15	50	good	heavy	won	1

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THE TIMES

Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos

PLUS win a weekend trip for two to Paris Saint-Germain v London Broncos

THE London Super League rugby season kicks off next weekend and *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to buy a season ticket for the London Broncos home games for £75, saving £35 off the normal season ticket price of £110.

Super League rugby is a fast, exciting sport all the family can enjoy with entertainment before the kick-off and at half-time. And their base, the Charlton Athletic football club ground, The Valley, in southeast London, has good public transport connections and car parking.

With your season ticket you get:

- reserved seats for 11 home games (including two FREE games)
- a commemorative T-shirt
- London Broncos cap
- no queuing for tickets

Forward Darren Shaw, right, has played for the London Broncos, who can trace their roots back to Fulham, for three years. He also played for Scotland in the World Cup and Super League Nines.

You could also win a trip to France to see the London Broncos away game against Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday, July 14 by entering our competition below.

Season ticket credit card hotline 0181 776 6670

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win a weekend trip for two to Paris with tickets for the Super League rugby game, simply phone your answers to the following two questions to: 0891 81 81 38 before midnight tonight.

- From which London club can the Broncos trace their roots?
- How long has Darren Shaw played for the London Broncos?

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Absence makes the heart grow acceptable

Each year my resistance to *Hearts of Gold* (BBC1) grows a little less. As another 12 months pass in which I have done nothing grand and certainly nothing heroic, my admiration for the gallant band who have increases once again. But let me be clear: this twin-track transformation is gradual, very gradual. At current rates, I calculate that I won't be really enjoying this sickly sweet celebration of good deeds until I am 147 years old. Either Rantzen, I feel certain, will still be around - wearing something imprudently short and cerise.

She was similarly equipped last night, as she kicked off the series where equal helpings of admiration and nausea have become very much the norm. But there was nothing "norm" about the way it began. Having swapped her suit for a pair of generously cut plastic overalls, Rantzen appeared to

be engaged in an unspeakable act with a gentleman in a golf bunker. All totally innocent, pause for laughter. We were assured, practising her swing don't know, but those of us reared on a diet of cheap laughs at the expense of misshapen vegetables knew better. My how we laughed.

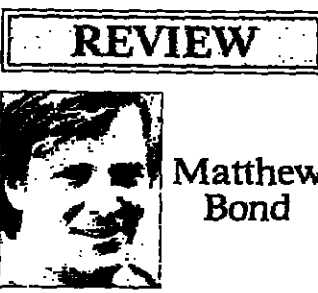
And my how La Rantzen was enjoying herself. She wiggled her bottom playfully and begged imploringly: "Once more, once more!" Our gallant, unsuspecting, life-saving, lorry driver (for it was he) bravely stepped forward and assumed the position again. Now this was brave, my heroic stuff. I was about to rush forward and pin a small piece of blue ribbon with a little gold heart on him myself.

Then suddenly I remembered - this wasn't the heroic act, this was the ruse - the ruse which no self-respecting light entertainment show (*This is Your Life*, *Surprise* and anything with Jere-

my Beadle or Noel Edmonds) is currently without. "Have you heard of a programme called *Hearts of Gold*?" asked Rantzen at regular intervals. "No," I shouted. "Just say no." But each time the heroic victim's response was the same - a straggly, bawling look and a weary "yes". Gotcha. I believe is the technical term.

Some of the ruses were hideously complicated, which allowed Carol Smilie (wearing something fashionably knee-length and sky blue) to step smoothly forward and say "this isn't as easy as it sounds" at similarly regular intervals. It also led to me spending several minutes under the impression that it was Mr Motivator who had spent three months in a coma. What an awful thought.

But, three times a night, order is restored. Those who have done the life-saving sit on one side of the



Matthew Bond

sofa, those whose lives had been saved sit on the other. The result is an awful lot of emotion. The heroes are all modesty, horribly embarrassed by the fuss. Those who rescued are all gratitude and enormous smiles. The means may be manipulative, the programme may be 15 minutes too long, but I defy anyone not to be moved by the sight of two burly lorry-drivers sharing a tearful cuddle. Still, as

long as they keep serving up the exuberating bits in-between I think I can hold out for another decade or seven.

If the Mr UK competition did not exist, there would not be long before a producer from Modern Times (BBC2) came along and invented it. On paper it looked perfect, a sign of our egalitarian, role-reversed times - lots of bronzed male bodies parading in front of drooling, cheering women. In reality, as producer Helena Appio discovered, it was definitely a sock or two short of a well-filled thong.

What are they going to do? asked a disbelieving and bitter Ann Sidney (Miss World 1964). "Prance down the planks in G-strings?" Yup, that was pretty much it - which left Appio with a lot of time to fill.

Round and round the went in ever diminishing interviews - knucklehead, Sidney, Eric Morley,

another knucklehead (I mean contestant, not organiser), Frank Warren, Judith Chalmers. But it's a reliable rule of documentary-making thumb that when the interviewee talking most sense is Michael Winner, you know you are in trouble.

Appio's efforts to fill the gaps between the defiantly unengaged and frankly uninteresting bodinages of the contestants merely served as a reminder that there were better documentaries to be made. What happens to former Miss Worlds, for instance, or the life and times of the incredible and indestructible Morleys.

For the former she was half-way there already, with a well chosen trio of beauty queens - the cynical Sidney, the wise and wonderful Reita Powell (Miss World 1966) and game for a laugh former Miss Puerto Rico (Miss World 1975). "It changed completely my life," said

the winsome Winella. She was right - she married Bruce Forsyth.

For anyone thinking of tackling the Morley story, here is a tip. Eric badly needs a pair of mid-calf socks. He may know a well-turned ankle when he sees one, but as last night's interviews revealed he certainly does not possess them.

Finally, Pete McCarthy brought *Travelog* (Channel 4) to a close with the sort of "holiday" I could identify with. He was ill, he was miserable and he was reluctantly hopping around Laos in an elderly Russian helicopter. But unlike me in such situations, he had not quite lost his sense of humour. Afflicted with both bronchitis and Luan Prabang bile, he ventured bravely forth in a motorised rickshaw or tuk-tuk "named after the cough it induces in passengers as they ingest large quantities of road". A heart of gold is already on its way.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (3749)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (34361)
- 9.00 News Extra (6271119, 9.20 Alan Cook, Wendy Cook (3207515), 9.45 Killy (3214770), 10.30 Good Morning (324515)
- 12.00 News (Castex) and weather (2659935)
- 12.05pm Movie Magic (1) (521577) 12.30 Going for a Song (326137)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Castex) and weather (44845)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (25712747)
- 1.40 Neighbours (Castex) (34492393)
- 2.00 Pebble Mill (3) (7580374)
- 2.55 Racing from Aintree. Live coverage of the 3.10 and 3.45 races. The 4.20 race is on BBC2 (3) (9183577)
- 4.00 The Morph Files (3) (4408225), 4.10 Highlander (Castex) (5734157), 4.35 The Gentle from Down Under (Castex) (32540654), 5.00 Newsround (Castex) (3313916), 5.10 Orange Hill (Castex) (3) (192864)
- 5.35 Neighbours (3) (Castex) (3) (354916)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Castex) and weather (799)
- 6.30 Regional News magazines (751)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops (Castex) (3) (3867)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Nigel spots an intruder. (Castex) (3) (935)
- 8.00 Wildlife on One. Most people regard hippopotamuses affectionately, considering them to be fat and lethargic. But in reality they are ferocious, three-tonne creatures, leared even by crocodiles. Narrated by David Attenborough (Castex) (3) (2515)
- 8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan looks at the trials and tribulations of sporting personalities. Joining him tonight are Gary Lineker and the hard man of rugby union, Mick "The Munch" Skinner. Plus there's a tribute to Murray Walker, the man of many gaffes (3) (Castex) (3) (1022)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Castex), regional news and weather (2732)
- 9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Edna has an isolation tank shipped in from Los Angeles (3) (Castex) (3) (42393), WALES: Week In, Week Out Special
- 10.00 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Jill Dando team up with the police to try to solve crimes with help from viewers (359667)
- 10.45 Question Time. Topical debate from London chaired by David Dimbleby. The guests are Anne McAvoy, deputy editor of the *Spectator*, and MPs Tony Newton, Margaret Beckett and Menzies Campbell (Castex) (162022), WALES: 10.45 The State 11.25 Question Time 12.25am Crimewatch UK Update 12.35-2.10 FILM: Agnes of God
- 11.45 Crimewatch UK Update (Castex) (3) (353190)
- 11.55 FILM: Agnes of God (1985). A newborn baby is found strangled in the cell of a novice nun who professes ignorance of the why. With Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly (Directed by Norman Jewison (Castex) (3) (891634))
- 1.30am Weather (3164469)

- 6.00am Open University: Stressed Materials (93305961 6.25 Miles of Arles (9318003) 6.50 A New Role for Men (6526461)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Castex) and regional (1426751) 7.30 Sitings (3) (Castex) (56254) 8.00 Blue Planet (Castex) (3) (514566) 8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (1) (449645) 8.30 Puppypoo Tales (1) (9546732) 8.40 The Record (6759867)
- 9.05 Daytime on Two: Seeing Through Science (2944664) 9.30 Lamexpress (929206) 9.45 Over the Moon (9317461) 10.00 Working Lunch (3) (Castex) (2469732) 10.45 Teaching Today (956080) 11.15 In Living Memory (8745310) N.J.: 11.15 Uster in Focus (11.35 Landmarks (Castex) (838684) N.J.: 11.55-12.15pm Study Ireland 12.00 Techno (3319728) 12.15pm Ciermarline (9897867) 12.30 Working Lunch (3) (Castex) (2469732) 10.45 Teaching Today (956080) 11.15 In Living Memory (8745310) N.J.: 11.15 Uster in Focus (11.35 Landmarks (Castex) (838684) N.J.: 11.55-12.15pm Study Ireland 12.00 Techno (3319728) 12.15pm Ciermarline (9897867) 12.30 Working Lunch (3) (Castex) (2469732) 10.45 Teaching Today (956080) 11.15 In Living Memory (8745310) N.J.: 11.15 Uster in Focus (11.35 Landmarks (Castex) (838684) N.J.: 11.55-12.15pm Study Ireland 12.00 Techno (3319728) 12.15pm Ciermarline (9897867) 12.30 Working Lunch (3) (Castex) (2469732) 10.45 Teaching Today (956080) 11.15 In Living Memory (8745310) N.J.: 11.15 Uster 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THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

Illegal approach verdict upheld

United must pay fine for poaching

By David Maddock

MANCHESTER UNITED have failed in their appeal against a fine of £20,000 imposed last month...

made their approach. It was, he said, a clear indication that the rules needed changing.

Alan Shearer, who was forced to withdraw from the England squad to face Bulgaria last night because of a groin injury...

"We now believe that the rules should be clarified because they are a mess. We hope that will be done within the next few months."

Scots celebrate 44 Slice of nostalgia 44

League and are likely to be amended. Judged under the proposed redrafted regulations...

Blackburn Rovers took their spending under Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, beyond the £40 million mark when they agreed a £1 million transfer fee for Gary Croft...

Watkins based his appeal on the fact that Brown had already turned down an offer of terms from Oldham...



Andre Agassi, seen here during his straight-sets win over the Canadian, Sebastian Lareau, at the Lipton championships in Florida yesterday...

Laboratory defends handling of Modahl specimen

By John Goodbody

THE Lisbon laboratory at the centre of the controversy over Diane Modahl's drug test yesterday defended its handling of the British runner's urine sample...

He was speaking after Modahl had been cleared on Monday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) of any offence after failing a drugs test in Portugal in June 1994.

"The IAAF council expressed 'serious concern' over the way the Lisbon laboratory dealt with Modahl's sample and criticised officials for refusing a third test, which 'could have provided a final resolution of this matter'."

However, Reys said that accredited laboratories are required only to conduct a test on the A sample and counter-test on the B sample.

He said: "Under regulations, a third test, which was not foreseen, would have required a re-sealing of the sample in proper conditions. This re-sealing was not solicited by any of the experts present at the counter-test, including those representing the athlete."

He confirmed that the remainder of the B sample was not sufficient in quantity for a further test and added that the laboratory would offer it for further scientific investigation but not for a third analysis.

It was only after the second test had confirmed the exceptional testosterone-epitestosterone (T/E) ratio that the two hearings of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) were held.

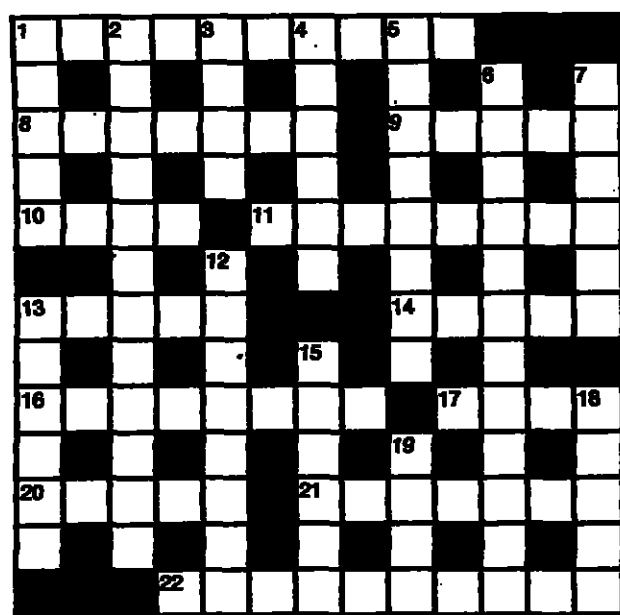
At the second of these, Modahl's advisers convinced the BAF panel that, because the sample had become contaminated after being left unrefrigerated after collection, the T/E ratio had been altered.

A third, different, test would have settled whether the high level of testosterone had been caused by the build-up of bacteria or from an illicit elevation of testosterone.

□ Anne Chagnaud, the French long-distance swimmer, has had a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test overturned on appeal. Chagnaud tested positive for etilphrine in January 1995.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 741 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS: 1 React with fierce anger (3,2,5); 2 Subject for discussion (7,5); 8 Unofficial (strike) (7); various animals (4,3); 9 Deal with: unexpected pleasure (5); 10 Spoil completely (4); 11 Of Spanish origin (8); 13 Town; school; two games (5); 14 Impudent; mildly indecent (5); 16 (Serious personal) danger (8); 17 Care; intellect (4); 20 Poem (eg Inferno) subdivision (5); 21 Descriptive language; carvings (7); 22 German leather shorts (10)

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SOLUTION TO NO 740: ACROSS: 1 Musical; 5 Twig; 9 Curie; 10 Choc-ice; 11 Maitre d'hotel; 12 Demure; 13 Broom; 16 Folding money; 19 Maudlin; 20 Gusto; 21 Dusk; 22 Abolard. DOWN: 1 Much; 2 Sarcasm; 3 Chesterfield; 4 Lackey; 6 Whist; 7 Greenlin; 8 Mother tongue; 12 Defamed; 14 Chelsea; 15 Agenda; 17 Louis; 18 Loud.

Dunhill Cup may switch to July

By a Correspondent

ST ANDREWS, perhaps the most famous golf course in the world, could be about to lose the Alfred Dunhill Cup — unless the event is switched from its usual autumn date to one in July.

The world's leading international team competition — is Europe's richest tournament after the Open Championship — has been played over the Old Course since its inauguration in 1985.

Now, however, the sponsor, Alfred Dunhill, wants to move it from its traditional October slot to July as from 1997. There is concern that unless St Andrews Links Trust agrees, the event this autumn could be the last in St Andrews.

It is no secret that the sponsor has been eager to switch the tournament because

of the uncertainty of the weather so late in the year, and also to attract more of the world's leading players.

The last three-year contract ended on the eve of the 1995 event, although a one-year deal was eventually agreed between the links' administrators, the International Management Group, Dunhill and the European tour to hold the tournament from October 10 to 13 this year. However, it was seen only as buying time until a new three-year contract could be ironed out.

Players ready for opening test 45 Webb wonders at rapid rise 45 Roe seeks to end decline 45

Nicky James, the trust general manager, said yesterday: "We have been told that the tournament will be held in July in future, so we have to decide whether the switch of dates is acceptable."

Last October, the Dunhill Cup attracted around 35,000 spectators, but that figure could easily be trebled if the event were switched to July. The organisers recognise, however, that it will not be possible to hold the event at St Andrews during July in a year when the Open Championship is played over the Old Course.

Peter German, the tournament director, said yesterday that because of the cold weather in October "it was getting increasingly difficult to get the star players."

Leading players may, however, regard the event as a distraction as they build up for the Open, which is traditionally held the third week in July.

Kiriakov finds spies in the camp

To many in Britain, especially those with long memories, Bulgaria is no more than a distant land that has a penchant for poison-tipped umbrellas — to be used, occasionally, to dispose of those that displease it.

A Bulgarian abroad, still conjures images of clandestine meetings in the dead of night, a sort of James Bondish without the pretty female adornments.

Ilian Kiriakov, 28, is no shady East European, bearing brochures of water-pistols — "I have other things as well, trust me" — and promises of a good deal as long as the payment is in dollars. Kiriakov is a professional footballer and was in England this week with Bulgaria for their international match at Wembley last night.

He has, though, a colourful background. Not quite spy-thriller status, perhaps, but with sufficient intrigue to monitor closely his progress. He is over here, primarily, to

hawk his wares — himself — to the highest bidder. Kiriakov, like self-respecting footballers the world over, wants to play in England.

"He is small but very agile," a source from Sofia said. "He is a personal marker, you know? He is exceptional." Apparently, he upset Paul Gascoigne, the England and Rangers midfielder player, when he played against him for Anorthosis Famagusta, his club in Cyprus, in the preliminary round of the European Cup this season.

Kiriakov's credentials are impressive, mildly. He played in Bulgaria, for CSKA Sofia, and Spain, for Deportivo La Coruña and Merida, before settling in Cyprus and has won 51 international caps.

Times are hard, though, and Anorthosis are trying to cash in on their most market-

able asset, preferably before the transfer deadline today for FA Carling Premiership clubs. Thus, Paul Lenas, Kiriakov's Greek agent, who is based in Watford, naturally, is moving with stealth and speed.

"I think the fee we are looking for is around £1 million," Lenas said. "I have approached several Premiership clubs, officially, of course, and they have expressed interest."

Yet who are these mystery clubs? A mole in Sofia suggested Wimbledon, Rangers — the Glasgow variety — or Real Betis, of Spain. "Not the big clubs in the Premiership, more middle of the range," Lenas said. "Not Rangers, but Celtic once showed an interest."

What about Queens Park Rangers? "I think they are out

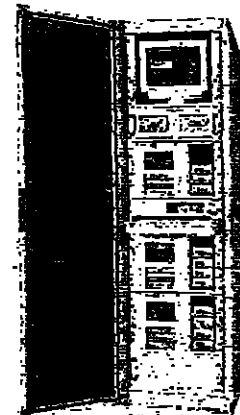
of money," he said. Wimbledon? "It is a matter of financing. They would probably have to sell Dean Holdsworth first." Who is it, then? "I am talking to a manager tonight. Then I will know more."

Mole II, in England, later revealed that Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers could be nearer the mark. With two Yugoslavs, a Belgian and a Dutchman in his ranks, David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is not averse to imported talent.

Bulgarians in English football have not enjoyed the best of success this season. Bobby Mikhailov, the Reading goalkeeper, and Bontcho Guentchev, the Luton Town striker, are engaged in relegation struggles in the Endleigh Insurance League first division. Perhaps Kiriakov should look elsewhere for future employment. Anybody know a good umbrella shop?

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